

to be introduced. The object of the measure is "to consolidate the laws having reference to the mutual fire insurance companies doing business in the Province of Ontario." We have not had opportunity to examine the Bill in detail, but from the cursory glance we have been able to give it, we are enabled to say that many of the clauses would improve the existing laws relating to fire insurance, whilst all are deserving of the serious consideration of the "collective wisdom." A measure so important as this, and containing, as it does, some eighty clauses, should be introduced early in the session, so as to receive the closest scrutiny at the hands of the people's representatives.

THE AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF WATERTOWN, N.Y.—The head office of this Company is located at Watertown, New York State, and the fact that it has to comply with the pretty rigid laws of that State is a guarantee of its perfect solvency. The capital stock is \$100,000, and a surplus of \$136,096 had been accumulated at the end of 1868, making the stock stand at a very high premium. The net cash premiums received in 1868 were \$204,335. A cash deposit has been made with the Dominion Government of \$51,500, under the Insurance Act of 1868, with the terms of which the Company has fully complied. This appears from the official certificates in another column. Mr. A. W. Smith has been appointed agent for Toronto and vicinity, and will, no doubt, be able to secure a full share of the class of business which his Company cultivates.

CANADA FARMERS' INSURANCE CO'Y.—This Mutual Company was among the sufferers by the late fire near Ottawa, to the extent of \$5,200, all of which is settled, and mostly paid. This is regarded as a lucky escape, in view of the number of policies held in two of the townships which were embraced within the range of the conflagration. The Canada Farmers' appears to be doing a good business; in the four months ending August 30th, 3,369 policies were issued; these figures in comparison with the business of the previous year show a very satisfactory increase.

NATIONAL LIFE.—In another column an article reprinted from an American insurance paper, gives pretty fully the peculiar features of this Company. Examples of their rates and other particulars, may be seen by reference to their announcement in our advertising columns.

Mr. WM. SACHE who, it was expected, would have been engaged as the cashier of the Dominion Bank, about to be organized, has taken the post of Montreal Agent of the Royal Canadian Bank.

TORONTO is to have a fire alarm Telegraph, cost not to exceed \$12,000.

—It is said that the Rutland Railway in conjunction with the Cheshire and Fitchburg Railroad companies, will subscribe the sum of six hundred thousand dollars for the Caughnawaga Canal.

HASTINGS MINING REGION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BELLEVILLE, Sept. 24, 1870.

It is now over six months since I sent you any intelligence from the Hastings mining region. This delay has been occasioned partly by personal reasons, with which I shall not trouble you; but chiefly because so little regular work has been going on, and most of those who were working kept their results under the seal of strict secrecy, so that very little information could be obtained, and that which was obtainable was often far from trustworthy.

Having lately, however, had a week's leisure, I devoted it to a run through the mining region, in the course of which I visited every working mine in the county, so as to inform myself, by personal inspection, of the state and prospects of the mining interests of the district.

My first visit was paid to the Cook mine, which I reached by a walk of some six miles from Marmora village. The mill stands on the bank of the river Moira, on lot 6 in the 8th concession of the township of Marmora, the mine being situated on lot 7 in the 9th concession, distant from the mill about half-a-mile. The reducing apparatus is driven by steam power, and consists of a battery of five stamps, of capacity to crush four tons of ore in 24 hours; a grinding pan, an amalgamating pan, a seven-foot settler, and a set of shoots lined with blanket for concentration. The ore is a glassy quartz, of a greyish color, with an abundance of "mispickel" (arsenical iron pyrites) in which the gold exists, partly in a free state, and partly enveloped in the sulphurets. That which is free is alone obtained by the process now in use, while the much larger quantity contained in the sulphurets awaits the application of some decomposing process before it can be realized. The shaft is 60 feet deep, and from the bottom a drift has been run 40 feet in a northerly direction. The vein at that depth is five feet wide, well defined, and with every appearance of permanency. The dip is nearly vertical, and the direction of the vein is from S.E. to N.W.

Since the mill was erected on its present site, about 500 tons of ore have been run through it, 300 tons of which have yielded gold at the average rate of \$11 per ton, at an outlay for mining, milling, and all expenses, of \$6 per ton. The whole has been done under the superintendence of J. D. R. Williams, Esq., M.D., to whose persevering energy it is chiefly owing that mining enterprise is still alive in this region.

The Gillen mine, owned by Messrs. Gilbert & Co., is situated on lot No. 6 in the 8th concession of Marmora, close to the road between the Cook mine and mill. It is on a vein similar to the last described, and at least of equal apparent richness. When I was there, no regular work was being done on it, but some miners from Madoc were working on a contract for 100 tons, to be crushed as a test quantity in the Cook mill. The workmen in the mine picked up from among their feet, and handed to me for inspection, several pieces of ore containing grains of visible gold. Gilbert's own crusher has not been working this season. The dam was carried away by the spring freshet, and has not yet been rebuilt, owing to a dispute among the partners.

While going up to inspect lots 9 and 10 in the 8th concession, where two gentlemen from the United States are opening up veins similar to those I have described, and, like them, showing gold, I chanced upon a party of three, a man with his wife and son, who were "panning out" gold from the surface soil of the road allowance between the 8th and 9th concessions. They showed me a pan containing nearly an ounce of gold, worth \$15, which they assured me they had taken from not more than two quarts of "dirt." They had hit upon a "pocket," from which, in their rude way, they took over \$60 worth of gold in a few hours.

From this place I went to Malone, near the old Feigel mine, which is now completely exhausted. Here I met Mr. W. H. Palmer, who showed me several promising veins on a portion of the Powell property, which he had leased. He was engaged in making a trial crushing of ten tons from one of them in the Severn mill, but I have not learned the result yet. The veins, like those of the Cook and Gillen mines, contain much arsenical iron.

I next walked across country to Eldorado, crossing the Moira three times in my journey—once by a bridge at Gordineers', and twice on its dry rocky bed, at Wannamaker's and Jackson's. Next morning I went to the Phoenix mine (old Richardson), which, at the time of my visit, had forty feet of water in the shaft, but with a pump rigged to go by horse power, and everything ready to begin pumping as soon as the miners should return from Marmora. The manager, Mr. J. H. Dunstan, still expresses unabated confidence in the future of this mine.

Thence I rode over to the Barry mine, lot No. 5 in the 2nd concession of the township of Elzevir, where I found everything ready to begin work as soon as the fall rains should set in, Black Creek having been all but dry for several weeks. The mill has been refitted with new machinery, the dam rebuilt, and forty tons of "pay-rock" laid down at the mill, ready to start upon, besides a considerable quantity more at the mine. The ore is a very white granular quartz, showing free gold. From the many rich specimens found while mining recently, the proprietors expect it to give at least \$20 to the ton.

Altogether, the prospects of the miner in this region are assuming a very encouraging aspect. The factitious excitement got up by a few designing and dishonest men, who came hither for the sole purpose of "making a strike," is extinguished forever, and there is now fair scope for legitimate enterprise, in which capital and labor, skilfully applied and judiciously expended, will not fail to secure a permanent and paying investment.

MERCANTILE AFFAIRS IN ST. JOHN, N.B.

(From a Correspondent.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 23, '70.

Considerable activity has been manifested in the wholesale trade of this port during the last week or two. Our dry goods merchants are commencing to receive their fall and winter supply, two of the regular ships of the Anchor Line having arrived with heavy cargoes, and merchants are busy laying out for the inspection of customers. This branch of business may be regarded as fairly healthy, although occasionally a pretentious firm with two or three long and high-sounding names, resorts to the dodge, (not uncommon in the trade) of writing off their liabilities by giving their creditors fifty cents on the dollar.

The wholesale grocers report a fair business doing; heavier articles, such as West India goods, have not yet commenced to move.

Our breadstuffs market is rather a peculiar one. Two or three houses do the great bulk of the business, and, to an outsider, would seem to control the trade. Such is not the case, however; probably some fifty or sixty petty dealers are in the habit of occasionally purchasing lots of a hundred barrels in the Western or American markets, and in the event of a sudden advance abroad, this class of men often peddle out their little lots at a rate which, though it may yield them a small profit, is yet twenty-five or fifty cents beneath cost of importation. These men thus virtually make the price, and not the large dealers. I give this explanation, as I have often heard complaints from millers and others who have sent consignments here, they being unable to understand why this market did not readily respond to an advance in the West, while it was always sure to respond fast enough when a downward movement took place. These