

1888—**SPRING**—1888.

We are now receiving and passing into Stock our purchases for the approaching season.

Staple Department.

CLOSE PRICES—RELIABLE MAKES:

Dress Goods and Mantle Department.

Newest Fabrics—Increased Assortment.

Hosiery and Glove Department.

Immense Variety—Solid Value.

Millinery Department.

Our preparations in this Department are on a more extended scale than usual, and worthy the attention of all dealers in this class of Goods.

SMITH BROS.,

Wholesale Dry Goods and Millinery,

Granville and Duke Sts., Halifax, N. S.

COALS.

FOR ONE MONTH

We will sell the undermentioned Coals
at the following

LOW PRICES.

Sydney Coal at \$5.75 per Chaldron.

Victoria Coal at \$5.75 “

S. CUNARD & CO.

NORTH END DEPOT, O'NEIL'S WHARF.

SOUTH END DEPOT, DOMINION WHARF.

MINING.

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD-MINERS' ASSOCIATION.—Gold-miners throughout the province should bear in mind the next meeting of the above association, which is to be held at the Halifax Hotel, at 2 p. m. on Saturday, the 3rd day of March next. Those miners who will be unable to attend, but who sympathize with the movement, should not fail to communicate with John Anderson, Port Pesswick Harbor, and those who intend to be present would also oblige by notifying him.

The election of officers was deferred until the next meeting in order to obtain a full expression of opinion, and it is to be hoped that the coming meeting will be largely attended.

We desire correspondents in every mining camp in the Province, so as to be enabled to give weekly reports from each mining district. We have now a number of correspondents who furnish us with the most reliable mining news, but we should like to see their numbers largely augmented. Sporadic attempts to write up our gold-fields do little good. What is required to impress upon capitalists the true value of our gold-fields is constant, never ceasing, publication of facts. A postal card each week giving a condensed account of the progress of mining in the different districts would fill our mining columns with interesting news, and give a great impetus to the gold-mining industry. Don't delay but write at once.

The mining act of the Province should be amended at the coming session of Parliament, so as to remove all doubt as to the proper method of taking up copper or lead properties containing silver and gold. Where leases have been taken out for lead or copper, the act is sufficiently specific, as it gives the right to all other minerals held in combination therewith. But where a five mile right of search, or a license to work has been secured for lead or copper, (as the act is construed by the department) it is necessary to protect the silver and gold by prospecting licenses or gold leases. This entails a most unnecessary cost on the taker up of such properties, and is a case where remedial legislation should at once be applied.

LAKE CATCHA DISTRICT.—There is little new to be reported from this district beyond the fact that the manager of the Oxford has removed some large “dumps,” preparatory to sinking on some rich angulars that are just beneath.

QUEENS COUNTY.—We have had no reports from the various mining districts in Queens County, and should be obliged if some one would post us up.

Continuing our extracts from the “Statistical Report on the mineral production of Canada during the calendar year of 1886,” by E. Coste of the Geological Survey, we find under the heading of mineral pigments that the total production of baryte in 1886 was 3,864 tons valued at the mines at \$19,270. In 1885 the production was only 300 tons from the Stewiacke mine, Nova Scotia. The increase in 1886 is due to the working of a large vein on McKellar's Island, Lake Superior. Messrs Henderson & Potts, the well-known manufacturers of Halifax, are the owners of the valuable vein, a few miles out of Brookfield Station, in the Stewiacke Valley, referred to above, and report the mineral present in practically unlimited quantities. When the Stewiacke Valley and Lansdowne R. R. is opened for traffic, it will greatly facilitate mining operations on their property, and will also help most materially in the commencement of operations at the “Joe Howe” silver lead mines, which are some five miles to the eastward of the baryte mine in the same valley.

TERRA ALBA.—About 4,000 tons were exported in 1886 from the gypsum quarries of Hillsboro, New Brunswick; it was worth, laid down in New York, from \$5 to \$7 per ton. The quantity shipped from Windsor, Nova Scotia, is not known.

About 400 barrels were produced in Ontario, valued at about \$600.

MISCELLANEOUS METALS.—“It is believed that there was no production or smelting of lead ore in Canada during 1886.” We wish to call special attention to this fact, as large beds of lead are known to exist at the “Joe Howe silver lead mines” at Smithfield, Colchester County, in this Province.

These mines will undoubtedly be producing lead in a few months, with the advantage of having the whole Dominion for a market. The present duty on lead (pig and scrap) is \$8 per ton, and has evidently been levied for revenue purposes only, as no lead in any quantity has so far been produced in the Dominion. When the Joe Howe mine is once producing lead, the promoters of the enterprise are entitled to still further protection, and the tariff should be raised to equal that of the States.

At present there is upwards of \$30,000 in duties paid yearly on lead and its manufactures imported into the Dominion, so that a lead mine in this Province has exceptional advantages. Besides, the ore at the Joe Howe mines contains more or less silver, and this should add largely to the profit of the mines. That the importation of lead is largely on the increase is proved by Mr. Coste's tables, which show that the total value of lead imported in 1885 was \$150,933, in 1886 \$196,678, an increase in one year of nearly one quarter, or \$46,000. The price of lead is steadily on the increase, as will be seen from the following report taken from *The Financial and Mining Record*:—

“Advices and aspects abroad seem to indicate that a substantial advance in lead is to be expected in Europe during the present year above the highest price in 1887. In the first place, there is a steadily increasing demand in that quarter as well as here in the United States. Ten years ago, the price of lead in England was \$106 per ton and over and at the opening of