

## Correspondence.

## KOOTENAY GOLD AND NOVA SCOTIA GOLD ROCKS.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—You published in your issue of the 27th Nov., an article copied from the *Montreal Gazette*, which was an interview with a Mr. Hardman, who originally had been mining in Nova Scotia, and who spent a month or two in Trail Creek and Kootenay, in B.C. In this Mr. Hardman airs his opinions freely and emphatically, to the effect that the veins in Trail Creek are not true fissures, that the camp is over-estimated, and that there is bound to be a collapse.

I do not know where Mr. Hardman got his experience. If it was in Nova Scotia solely, I can account for his lack of knowledge as to what a true fissure vein is, for in that country there are none. The formation in N.S. is the lower silurian, and the veins are only gash veins, the fracture being merely superficial and on the surface; whereas, in Trail Creek the formation is diorite and syenite, both metamorphic rocks that have broken through the sedimentary rocks, being forced up by plutonic forces, and then the great fractures or fissures have been formed by volcanic action.

The best English and American experts have pronounced the Trail Creek veins to be true fissures. I do not for a moment say that there are not true fissure veins in the lower silurian formation; many of the metallic deposits of North America are found in that formation; the gold and copper of Eastern Canada, the iron, lead and copper of Lake Superior; the gold of Nova Scotia, and the lead of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, are all found in lower silurian beds; but no one has yet found any fissure veins in those regions. But what I do say is, the greatest mines on this continent, north or south, have been found in either diorite or syenite rocks.

The great Comstock lode is in a syenite mountain. The Santa Eulalia mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, which two hundred and fifty years ago built the cathedral in the city of Chihuahua, at a cost of \$800,000, from a tax levied on the product of the mine at the rate of one real (12c.) on every 64 ounces of silver taken from the mine, has been worked ever since, and is being worked to-day. This mine is in syenite formation. The mines of Batopilas in Chihuahua, from which Governor Sheppard, of

Washington, D.C., took \$30,000,000 in ten years time, are in diorite formation. The great Conception mine in Guanaguato, owned by the Count De Rheul, of Paris, which has been working 250 years, from which \$800,000,000 has been taken, and the lower workings of which are only down 1,800 feet, is in diorite formation. The great silver mines of Cuale are in syenite; and those of Catorci, in Mexico, are diorite, and all of them are true fissures. The great Callio mine in Venezuela is in syenite; this mine has produced \$1,000,000 a year for the last twenty years. The Aguacate mines of Costa Rica, Central America, the gold from which built up the country, are in diorite formation.

Then again, Mr. Hardman speaks of Johannesburg and says, "Trail Creek being a rival to it is all nonsense." Does he know, I wonder, that the formation in which the gold is found in the Rand is conglomerate, in sandstone walls, and that the whole district is only twelve miles in length; that the average yield of the whole field is only ten pennyweights to the ton; that they could not treat the ore without the cyanide process, and that it would not pay to work the mines at all if it was not for the cheap Kaffir labor? The reason the South African mines ever came on the London market at all was because the chief promoters got them for nothing. I expect if Mr. Hardman had been sent to examine the South African formation he would have done the same as a German engineer did who was sent out at an early day to make an examination—simply walk away and report "no gold there." He was not looking for gold in conglomerate confined in sandstone walls—would not believe in it. If that man had ever travelled and had experience, he would have found the same thing in California, only not tipped up by volcanic action, the same as the bottom of the African lake was; for that is what it is, simply the bottom of a lake turned on its edge.

A man can learn quite a lot of geology from books, that is, general geological principles; but when it comes down to mines and formations you've got to travel and not confine your experience to the narrow environments of Nova Scotia either.

Then again, Mr. Hardman places the cost of mining gold ore at from \$7 to \$10 per ton; why should it cost that money? In Colorado it costs from \$2 to \$3 according to conditions, and the conditions in Colorado are very similar to those in Rossland; wages are on a par; food is no dearer, neither is wood. He then speaks of pyritic smelting. I wonder if he ever

heard of the Austin process of smelting sulphide ores, which is largely in use in Colorado on ores similar in all respects to the Trail Creek ores, only not so rich, for they carry only from two to three per cent. of copper, yet it pays the owners of the mines, and they ship the ores one hundred and fifty miles.

Mr. Hardman also appears to have an antipathy to the Toronto mining brokers, and warns Montreal and Boston to look out for them and their non-assessable stock. I expect he is afraid that the Toronto men will not leave any money in Montreal for him. The non-assessable stock feature of the mining business is all right, and when people buy it they know they cannot be called on for any more money; and they know also that that stock cannot be called on for an assessment, at a time, may be, when the owner is utterly unprepared to pay it, and if he could not pay it get frozen out of the deal and lose all he put in. *Experientia docet stultos.*

JAS. D. LEWIN,  
Little Bess Mining Co.

## THE HOG CHOLERA IN KENT.

We are requested by the Board of Trade of Chatham, Ont., to publish the following letter. We are pleased to learn that the reports of the extent of hog cholera in Kent are much exaggerated:

Office of Dominion Inspectors of Stock  
in Transit, Windsor, Ont., Nov.  
16th, 1896.

DEAR SIR:—In accordance with your request "to give you the facts of the outbreak of Hog Cholera on Walpole Island and in the County of Kent," I am pleased to state, that after making a careful investigation of the disease, which commenced on the 4th inst., I reported to the Department at Ottawa, and to Prof. A. Smith, of Toronto, Provincial Inspector, that the disease proved to be that of Hog Cholera, and on Saturday, 7th inst., I received orders from Prof. Smith to take action to stamp it out. I have not been able as yet to find any diseased hogs on the Island, but am led to believe that the plague swept the Indians almost entirely of their swine during July and August. The disease has, without a doubt, spread to the county by parties bringing over to the mainland diseased animals. At present only ten farms are affected and five or six quarantined on suspicion, on account of the hogs being moved, all of which are confined to the western part of the North Gore and Chatham Township, with one

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