

shareholders in this company should, before it is too late, very seriously consider these proposals to alter the company's articles of association. Should they finally decide to confirm the resolutions which are said to have been passed at the company's previous meeting, they will place enormous powers in the hands of the present directors, not the least of which will be the authority which these directors are ardently seeking (totally opposed as it is to the spirit of the original prospectus of the company) to vote to themselves 'remunerations' for their 'services' on a perfectly extravagant scale."

The whole affair bears an unsavory resemblance to that reckless system of company promotion unfortunately too prevalent at the moment in London mining finance, and whose pernicious influence has on more than one occasion wrought havoc with promising mining investments in Canada.

At the moment when considerable interest is being taken in the development of our mineral resources, not only in British Columbia but in the other provinces, many worthless propositions are afoot, and the intending investor must be wary.

The auriferous gravels of British Columbia are beyond peradventure an exceedingly promising field for the investment of that foreign capital which we so earnestly desire, but successful effort can only be realized from judicious capitalization, careful selection of properties, competent management, and the strictest economy in administration.

### Gold Mining in Ontario.

The gold field of the Rainy River district, like most other gold camps, in the earlier stages of development, has suffered not a little from the mistaken zeal of its friends. That gold occurs over a widely extended area in the district is now established and that it will be found profitable to mine it at a number of places is also probable, but the widely published statements of the fabulous richness at all points serve no good purpose and really retard its real progress. No one who is capable of forming an intelligent opinion of the value of gold properties will be deceived by these accounts: but men wholly unacquainted with the subject are attracted by them and are induced to squander their money on claims of doubtful value and often to erect mills in advance of any development which would warrant such an expenditure. The inevitable result of such methods is a number of expensive mills shut down for want of ore to work and a consequent withdrawal of public confidence in the gold producing capabilities of the region.

Mr. W. McInnes, of the Geological Survey, who has been investigating the geology of this region, and whose map and report will shortly be issued to the public, was seen on his return the other day and courteously gave the REVIEW the following summary of the occurrence of gold and the mineral development of this section of the country:—

"As far as our knowledge of the geology of the district permits us to judge, the gold is confined to the Keewatin belts, along the entire length of which it occurs at intervals. One belt of these rocks extends from Rainy Lake, with a limited development only on the American side of the international boundary, along the Seine and Atikokan River eastward and beyond the eastern boundary of the district. Besides the main central belt there are a number of spurs and forks extending northward and north-eastward into the Laurentian area.

"All along these belts gold has been found, not always, it is true, in paying quantities, but enough to give good prospects of profitable mining at different points.

"The best veins have been found, up to the present, in the divisions of the Keewatin embracing the quartz porphyric and various altered rocks of like origin. In rocks belonging to this class are situated the mines about Bad Vermillion and Harold Lakes, where mills have been erected, and those on the American side of the international boundary. Similar Keewatin belts in the Manitou region have yielded gold at a

number of points, but nowhere has development been carried far enough to warrant the erection of mills in that district.

"The 5-stamp mill at Harold Lake, operated by the Wiley Bros. of Port Arthur, has been working during the latter months of the summer. They are here trying only to save what free gold they can hold on the plates, and are storing the tailings for future treatment. A brick of gold from the mine, with a reported value of about \$900.00, was brought out before I left and they were expecting another daily.

"The Sultana, at Lake of the Woods, where they are down about 200 feet, was regularly turning out bricks of gold which would well repay them for their work.

"Most of the other properties were being worked chiefly in the line of development, and, if that policy is adhered to, satisfactory results may be looked for and disastrous failure averted."

## EN PASSANT.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia will hold its next general meeting in the rooms of the Society at Halifax on Thursday, 21st November next. A verbatim report of the proceedings will, as usual, be found in these columns.

The second volume of the proceedings of the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec will be issued to members next month. The volume contains something over 300 pages of valuable matter respecting the progress of mining in various parts of the Dominion and is profusely illustrated and very handsomely gotten up. Arrangements for the next meeting at Montreal in January are progressing and a good programme is already assured.

That our Geological Survey is thoroughly alive to the necessity of furthering the interests of mineral development has frequently been questioned, the chief complaint being that new fields of discovery were overlooked while prominence was given to territory not at present economically available. Whatever cause for objection may have existed in this regard, certainly none can be made this year, the investigations of Dr. Dawson's field force being very largely directed to mining localities throughout the country at present attracting attention, as a reference to the following will show:

Slocan Silver Districts, B.C.—Mr. R. G. McConnell and Mr. H. V. Russell.  
The Rainy Lake Gold Region—Mr. W. McInnes.  
The Iron Resources of Frontenac and Leeds, Ont.—Mr. E. D. Ingall.  
The Gold Fields of Nova Scotia—Mr. E. R. Faribault.  
The Coal Deposits of Nova Scotia—Mr. Hugh Fletcher.  
The Quebec Gold Fields—Mr. R. Chalmers.

In addition to these, and other important surveys, a very notable work is being carried on in the Northwest, where a boring is being put down under an experienced oil-well driller in the tar sands of the Athabasca. The ensuing reports of the Survey should therefore be of more than ordinary interest to our readers.

At a meeting of Council of the Ontario Mining Institute, held on 11th instant, arrangements were made for the immediate publication of its first volume of proceedings. Members who have not already done so are requested to return the revised sheets of their contributions to the Secretary as quickly as possible.

Deep sinking in Queensland has apparently not been a success, if we may judge by the following remarks of the Under Secretary for Mines in his report for 1894. He says: "The sum of £10,000 was placed on the loan estimates for the purpose of enabling the minister to grant assistance towards proving auriferous and other metalliferous lodes in deep ground, on such of the goldfields and mineral districts as have