

At the last monthly meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, held at Montreal on Thursday week past, a most interesting and instructive paper on "Nova Scotia Coal Mining," by Mr. Gilpin, the Deputy Commissioner of Mines, was read. It gave full details of the methods adopted in our coal mines and the writer received a well merited vote of thanks. Mr. Gilpin by his able papers on the mineral resources of this Province has not only acquired a most enviable name abroad, but has at the same time done good work in bringing the great value of our mines to the attention of scientific men and capitalists.

The New Albion mining property at Montague has been for some time worked on tribute, and the tributors have struck it "very rich." Samples of quartz taken from the lead were full of gold and the Mines Department has purchased one of them on account of its great value as a specimen of our gold-bearing quartz.

A despatch to the Chronicle states that Mr. Nelson has just sold another Malaga Lake gold mine to a Minnesota Syndicate. Mr. Nelson is reported as paying \$30,000 in cash for the property and at once selling it at an increased price. Mr. C. E. Willis, lately of Gold River near Chester, has been appointed manager of the mine. Mr. Nelson has made a large fortune through his plucky investments in gold mines.

"Deep miner" in the last issue of THE CRITIC drew attention to the desirability of sinking a deep shaft on any one of the true fissure veins in the gold districts. The question now arises: are there any true fissure veins in the gold districts of Nova Scotia? Mining men of ability say that so far no true fissure veins have been found. We should like to hear from some of our subscribers on this point.

The improvement in the Copper market has enabled the Eastern Development Co. Ltd., to reopen the work at the Coxheath Copper Mine. Since about the middle of September a large force has been employed in mining and the erection of new buildings, placing new machinery in position and vigorously pushing the underground work. The property contains several parallel veins and at 200 ft. depth the company is driving a cross cut to intersect them all, which is already nearly four hundred feet long and an air drill at each end is rapidly extending it. Already four veins have been cut and partially explored, one of them is very promising being from 6 to 10 feet wide and yielding very rich ore—samples of which can be seen at the Office of the Commissioner of Mines. We are glad to learn of the success the company is meeting, and that they are likely to receive a profitable return in the near future for their large investment. A large force of miners will be kept on all winter and the drilling machinery is to be doubled, nearly 100 men are now on the pay rolls.

FAMINE IN GOLD.—"Probably nine-tenths of all the gold obtained by man has been taken from placer deposits, and our American experience has been no exception to the general rule," remarked an experienced mining operator in speaking of the past and future of this valuable product the other evening. "Previous to 1847 our total gold production amounted to \$12,000,000, but between 1847 and 1888 about \$1,750,000,000, were contributed to our stock of gold. Of this nearly three fourths came from placer deposits. In 1850-56 we obtained more than \$50,000,000 per annum in gold from the placers of California, and almost nothing from gold-bearing veins. Now, with an annual production of \$30,000,000 about one-half is from placers. Our own territory has been so thoroughly explored that no considerable superficial deposits of gold are likely to be discovered, and nearly the same thing can be said of the entire world.

"In the northern extension of our western mountain ranges, in British Columbia and in Alaska there are probably important deposits of gold. It is likely, however, to come from this region in a moderate but perennial stream, and not in a flood. Great difficulty will attend the working of those mines on account of the cold, long winters and the difficulty in transporting supplies. Unless the mines should prove richer than expected there may be a dearth of gold in the near future. In the Allegheny belt of mountains, in this country, there are large deposits of gold, but they are difficult to work. Still industry and perseverance may make them pay a profit. Mexico may be expected to turn out \$1,000,000 a year, but no more. The west coast of South America yields little silver.

Columbia, Venezuela and Brazil have, on the contrary, always been producers of gold. It is estimated that from Brazil alone more than \$1,000,000 in gold were obtained during the first 300 years after the advent of the Portuguese. Columbia and Venezuela are now yielding about \$4,000,000 each annually and little more than that can be expected in the future.

Australia produces about \$30,000,000 a year and we can not hope for more than \$5,000,000 annually from Asia. That will cover it all. I don't fear that you and I will ever suffer from a famine of gold, but unless the North American deposits are richer than is expected some one will suffer." *N. Y. Mail and Express.*

It was supposed that the European syndicate, which has cornered the supply of copper, would go to pieces in consequence of the heavy production of the current year; but apparently the combination has greater resources than it was credited with. It has made contracts with all the large copper mining companies to take their production for fourteen years from the present time. The miners contract on their own part to limit production. Some means have been found of reconciling the great copper consuming industries in England to the situation. Under the influence of the syndicate the price of copper has been raised from 10½ cents to 17½ cents a pound. It costs the miners about 6 to 6½ cents a pound to produce, so it will be

seen that there are enormous profits for all concerned but the consumer. The establishment of these high prices for fourteen years ought to have great influence in promoting the development of the Canadian copper deposits at Sudbury and elsewhere.

The work of development and testing is going on quietly at Laproaux, below St. John, and good results are looked for in the opening up of a body of anthracite coal. It is hoped their efforts will be fully successful.

N. C. Owen and others have made another rich find at Malaga Lake. A lead which was only 2 inches at the surface, but which is widening as it is sunk upon, yielded 1 oz from 10 lbs. quartz. 500 lbs. were then crushed, and yielded 10 oz.

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