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(Continued from page 15.)

In some mines of the Province, notably Montago, "Nuggets" so called are feur d within the line of the Streak or Chute, and often contain from two hundred to three hundred ounces of gold in a few hundred weights of quarz. These neggets apparently occur with some regularity 10 or 12 feet apper, and very naturally greatly increase the yield, but as it has been the custom in the past to crush all ore throughout the mine the average value of the rich Chute is much reduced by the addition of the unprofitable rock between the Streaks worth possibly only two or three dwise, per ton, and, as there would be fully ten times as much of this poor rock crushed compared to the true streak ore, it proves the richore has to pay the losson treating unprofitable rock for an incressed tomage which must return a lower yield per ton throughout.

When the developments of Montagu enable the manager to attack only the Streaks, Icaving the poorer rock 'in situ' the returns should greatly exceed those of the past, especially as by that time more of the occurrence of the gold will have been learnt by experience under systematic workings.

The mines I have seen in the Province appear unusually free of water,

The mines I have seen in the Province appear unusually free of water, except such as is derived from surface where the numerous pits and cuttings form attractive recervoirs, and I have reason to think that if the shafts were puddled with clay well tamped behind the lagging, very little water would be found below.

Considering the minute proportion of gold to the bulk of rock, too much care cannot be given to avoiding unnecessary handling of the ore, from which there must be loss in gold and expense. The rock as broken should fall into passes connecting with the level, when a truck after being filled carries it to the shaft, and is hoisted to the surface on the eage and delivered by tramway to the milit oute. When tipped, the ore is shot through a grizzle into the ore bins which supply the self feeders, and the large lumps which fail to pass through, are put into the stonebreaker. By this method, handling of quar z is reduced to a minimum.

Too often the first object of a manager is to make a good show on surface, and starts on eving substantial works before he has learnt the value of the mine, this is surely putting the cart before the horsy for surface works do not pay the dividends, and it is far wiser to expend working capital *first* in development and proving what the mine contains, merely executing such plant as is absolutely necessary to compete with the requirements of the developments, lesions launching out into handsome buildings and expensive machinery, a system which has brought many a good mine into liquidation.

Ample working capital is most essential, and I do not consider Nova Scotian mines as a rule have had a fair chance. What could have been accomplished in other countries if they had had only the few hundred pounds available, that has been the history of this Province? They would have anticipated failure, and I consider very great credit is due to the mining men here to have done so much with the small means at their command.

Again, owing to the fact that many of the mines have been opened by men with small Capital, the prefits have been distributed without building up a reserve fund for developing new grounds when the rich ore they worked yielded smaller returns, and in consequence many mines that have yielded handerne profits in the past, are now closed down for want of funds to open out rich are lying below. With ample working capital the mines can be worked not only on a larger state but drawing ore from a dozen defferent points, the temporary falling off in yield at one or two places does not materially affect the return.

affect the return.

With the experience of Indian mines, having a working capital of at least \$100,000, and those of the Transvarl, where half a million dollars is for from an uncommon working capital for machinery and mine development, the small system of working in this Province cannot be considered a fair comparison, and yet I am convine d, from my own personal experience, that Nova Scotia mines will amply repay the outlay of large capital provided it is judiciously expended, I mean in bona fide development and not for show on surface.

The quartz occurs principally as bedded veins in a country formation of Talcose or Argillaceous Slate and dense quartzite tilted almost on edge, and the leads are likely to continue gold hearing to great depth, in fact, as deep as the slates. It is however, probable that the sulphurets will increase as greater depth is reached. And as considerable gold is associated with these sulphurets of iron, copper, arcenic, lead and zinc, more attention should be given to their concentration and treatment, a subject that has received little thought in the past and generally they will be found a welcome asset.

The ore having been delivered at the mill, the next process is to extract the gold as effectually as possible, and I would impress upon mining men that am Igamation is a science, and that it does not mean feeding so much rock under stampers with the addition of water to splash out the crushed particles, which are then conducted over some amalgamated copper plates. Any school boy or ignorant man can do that and catch a certain percentage of the gold.

The science of amalgemation is arresting and separating the last particle of gold that can predicably be extracted from the quartz rock, and I mean by this, that there is a point of gold-saving beyond which it casts more to ex-

tract the extra percentage than the value of the gold recovered.

The two first objects are to get the particles of crushed rick out of the mortar box, when reduced sufficiently to pass the acreens without unnecessary pounding, and accordly to retain the gold in or as near the box as possible, and with this i let an auralgement of late is generally placed inside the mortar box—quicksilver being introduced at intervals— on the crushed ore or pulp leaving the box, the great object is to check the forward flow of pulp as much as possible without causing it to silt, the tendency of a check