

office. The Minister of Mines may, when he deems it necessary, order an inspection of a mine, and the inspection on the condition of all machinery, timbering, etc., of the mines of the province; penalties being imposed on managers or owners of mines refusing the inspector admission.

Smith's Mineral Bill Amendment is framed on the recommendations of the mining committee, but omitting that provision prohibiting aliens from taking up claims, as Smith is opposed to this as narrow and unnecessary. One section is designed to exempt from free miners' licenses men who are merely employed at work in the mines. Another provision is that in entering on private lands a miner is not first required, as at present, to put up security, but only does so if requested afterwards by the owners. Another section allows work done outside of a mineral claim, if having a direct relation to such claim and in direct proximity to it, to be accepted in lieu of assessment work and also it provides that a partnership not exceeding eight claims in number may put in assessment work for a group on one claim, the amount expended being equal to \$100 for each claim.

Crown grants to mineral claims are made to convey surface rights, including timber for the purpose of working the claim, other surface rights being vested in the Crown, but the owners of Crown grants for mineral claims may purchase all the surface rights also for \$5 per acre. In cases where a mineral claim is located on a railway grant the owner or the Crown grant shall be entitled to appropriate the surface right in fee simple of the company, the amount not to exceed \$5 per acre.

All the sections here referred to are in italics, for private members cannot bring them in and when in italics are supposed not to be seen until the government gives its consent in the house to their insertion.

Other provisions make clearer the laying out of claims and recording them. A miner to abandon a claim must give notice in writing to the Mining Recorder. For the purpose of a Crown grant, work done on a claim by the predecessor in title may be deemed to be done by the applicant, who receives the transfer. Notice of the application for a Crown grant must be made in a newspaper in the district, or if there is none then in the nearest paper. The survey of a claim may be counted as work on the claim, but not to exceed \$100.

To prevent any more uncertainty as to partnerships no free miner shall be entitled to interest in a claim located by some one else except where a written agreement exists.

The onus of proof against a previous location is placed on the adverse claimant. These are the principal provisions in the bill.

NEW MINING COMPANIES.

The Ottawa Gold Milling and Mining Co.; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: John Mather, lumber merchant; Edward Seybold and James Gibson, manufacturers; William Andrew Clark, express agent, and Angus William Fraser, barrister-at-law, all of Ottawa.

La Reine Gold Mining Company of Ontario; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: Arthur James Jackson of Toronto, loan company manager; George Drewry, merchant; James Malcolm Savage, lumberman; George Girard, miner, and John William Colcleugh, accountant, all of Rat Portage.

The Bi-Metallic Mining and Development Company of Ontario; capital \$2,500,000 in

\$1 shares. The incorporators are: Robert Samuel King, treasurer; Joseph Montgomery, student-at-law; William Henry Jones and John Sifton Dignam, manufacturers; Edward Trousdell, gentleman, and Frederick De la Vigne, mining expert, all of Toronto, and Albert Edward Jones, London, England.

The McGown Gold Mining Company of Parry Sound; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: Thomas McGown, the elder, gentleman; Patrick McCurry, stipendiary magistrate; William Rabb Beatty, lumberman; David McFarlane, Division Court clerk; Milton Pearce, Donald W. Ross and Thomas John McGown, merchants; John Robinson Stone, physician; William McGown, wood ranger; James Calder, blacksmith; John Reid Leggett, jeweler; William Harvey Hoppins, filer; Frank Halliday, timber agent; John A. Johnston and James Beveridge, contractors; James Ross Morrison, machinist, and Hiram Erskine Stone, barrister-at-law, all of Parry Sound; Horatio Nelson Crossley of Toronto, gentleman; George Monteith, fur dealer; John Percy Waddy, physician, and Samuel Hooper, merchant, all of Rosseau; Francis William Ashdown of the township of Humphrey, merchant; Thomas McGown, the younger, and John McGown, both of the township of Foley, yeomen, and William Calder of Maganetawan.

THE SASKATCHEWAN.

The Edmonton *Bulletin* in a two-column leader, makes the startling prediction that instead of \$50,000 as heretofore, the Saskatchewan River will hereafter yield \$5,000,000 in gold.

Gold has been mined, or perhaps more accurately, washed for many years. The metal is found in minute scales, so small as to be only noticeable by the naked eye from their sparkle. The dust is always found in connection with black sand—evidently magnetic iron—amongst the ordinary sand, gravel and boulders of the river bars, which are found on alternate sides of the river throughout its length for 100 miles above and below Edmonton.

It appears that not only gold dust but gold nuggets are to be found on the Saskatchewan. Mr. Thomas O. Davis, M.P., for Saskatchewan, who has just passed through Toronto on his way to Ottawa, exhibited a nugget of pure gold the size of a pigeon's egg, which had been obtained from the bed of a stream in his neighborhood. He stated that in Saskatchewan there are 110,000 square miles of land intersected by a network of rivers and water-courses many of which contain free gold in their beds. Already the district has attracted a large number of gold-seekers, who work by the old-fashioned panning system and are able to make from \$2 to \$2.50 per day. The country is well wooded, has plenty of game and living only costs about 40 cents a day.

CRIPPLE CREEK SHIPMENTS.

ORE shipments from Cripple Creek continue to increase, says the *Engineering and Mining Journal* of New York, and in March, for the first time, the values exceeded \$1,000,000 in a single month. This total was made up by 6,459 tons of smelting ore, averaging \$89 per ton, and 17,136 tons of milling ore averaging \$25. The total shipments were therefore 23,595 tons of ore averaging \$42 per ton, and the total value \$1,003,251. It is to be noted that this large amount was secured chiefly by an increase in the quantity of low-grade ore, which goes to

the mills. These ores in March furnished 71.4 per cent. of the tonnage, and 42.7 per cent. of the value, though their average grade was so much less than that of the smelting ores. For the quarter ending with March there was a total production reported of 59,485 tons of ore, 20,461 tons being smelting ore and 39,024 tons milling ore. The total value of the former was \$1,657,961, and of the latter \$996,400, making the full value \$2,654,381 for the quarter. This growth of the camp is very gratifying.

INFORMATION WANTED.

THE Council of the Board of Trade of Victoria, B.C., is making a special investigation of an advertisement of the Department of the Interior calling for "tenders for a lease for the exclusive right to dredge for gold in a part of the bed of Stewart river, a tributary of the Yukon river, North-West Territories."

No information was forthcoming to make clear the meaning of this advertisement, and as action could not be taken in the dark, the secretary of the board was instructed to telegraph at once to Victoria's representatives at Ottawa, Hon. Mr. Prior and Mr. Earle, asking them to mail a copy of the conditions referred to, with all other information, immediately.

The *Colonist*, commenting on this matter, says:—"To offer a monopoly of all the gold in one hundred miles of a river known to be rich in the yellow metal, and that, too, before the miners who after months of toilsome travelling are now seeking their fortunes in the region in question, certainly appears *prima facie* a very strange proceeding. In view of the fact that Stewart river is spoken of as one of the very richest in the Yukon country, and is especially referred to as such in a report just received at Ottawa from Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, the proposition of the government is all the more astounding. To use the words of one old miner who tried to sound its meaning yesterday, 'It almost takes one's breath away.'"

THE WM. HAMILTON MINING MACHINERY COMPANY.

ONE of the best known manufacturers of mining machinery in Canada is the Wm. Hamilton Co., Limited, of Peterboro', who have just issued a very fine descriptive and illustrated catalogue of their stamp, chlorination and cyanthide mills, a branch of the business to which they have given much careful attention, with the result that their machinery has obtained a very high reputation. Being constantly in communication with practical miners and mill men, and in touch with the latest theoretical and practical methods of mining and milling the different ores they are conversant with the latest methods, and in a position to supply the highest grade and most suitable and up-to-date machinery for all purposes. Stamp mills of every description for dry and wet crushers, amalgamating pans, barrels and plates, the best known and most modern apparatus for drying, roasting, retorting and melting into fine bullion, also the most improved revolving barrels, and tanks used in connection with the chlorination, cyanide and other chemical treatments. In the catalogue, each part of the various machines is very clearly and completely illustrated, and every detail is carefully attended to.

In addition to their works at Peterboro', the Wm. Hamilton Co. has a branch office at Vancouver, and they will furnish, with pleasure, on application, detailed specifications and estimates, and cheerfully lend their assistance to those contemplating the erection of new works or improving existing plants.