

MINING.

A MINING ASSOCIATION.—So far 18 of the principal owners and managers of mines in the province have subscribed their names to the document favouring the formation of "A Gold Mining Association." We understand that many persons residing at a distance from Halifax are in full accord with the movement, and thoroughly appreciate the advantages to be derived from the establishment of such an organization; and as it is inconvenient at the present time for such persons to visit the city, we have, with the consent of those most interested, instructed our staff correspondent, while visiting the Nova Scotia mines, to obtain the names of those who wish to join the association, and have given him a *fac simile* of the document which is now in the hands of Messrs. W. L. Lowell & Co. We feel confident that within the next three months Nova Scotia will have its Gold Mining Association, and should this prove true we would, realizing the advantages of such an association, consider that THE CRITIC had done a good service to the mining fraternity, and through it to the province at large.

THE CRITIC'S SPECIAL STAFF CORRESPONDENT.—Our staff correspondent who is now in the Bridgewater and Pleasant River gold district, will be able to furnish those among our readers interested in mining with a detailed account of the workings in the gold mines of that locality. We have been promised that our representative will receive a hearty welcome from the mine owners and managers throughout his western tour, and trust that he may be able to make such arrangements as will make the mining department of THE CRITIC of still greater interest to our increasing circle of readers. Our correspondent will proceed westward to Obedonia, thence via Liverpool to Yarmouth, and after visiting the gold mines at Kemptville, return to Halifax. His subsequent movements will be announced.

TENNICAPE.—The Manganese mines in this district are proving even more productive than they did three years since. I see by THE CRITIC of last week that your staff correspondent is to visit Hants county. I hope he will not forget to visit Tennicape, and feel certain that if he does he will be surprised at the extent of our excavations.

Yours,

T. C.

WEST GORE.—Aside from our antimony mine there is little here worthy of note. Several persons are prospecting in this locality, and it is rumored that a Hants county gentleman has discovered a deposit of antimony of considerable size. I will send you as desired a full account of our big antimony mine within a few days.

Yours,

REP.

IRON.—Some of our mining contemporaries are discussing the question as to the use of iron among the Aztecs, Peruvians, and other native Americans. From a perusal of these papers we gather that although gold, silver, and copper mining were carried on to some extent by the aboriginal tribes, iron mining was unfamiliar to them. True, iron implements were used by the pyramid builders of Peru, but these were manufactured entirely of meteoric iron.

ALUMINIUM, the metal of the future, abounds in greater or lesser quantities in every sod turned by the farmer. The uses to which this non-corrosive, light, and tough metal may be applied are innumerable, but the latest use of aluminium is for cartridge cases, for which purpose it is admirably adapted. House-roofing, ship-sheathing, and boiler-making, are among the possible uses to which the present generation may put aluminium.

PLEASANT RIVER.—The mines here are being worked for all they are worth. Fifty men are being kept constantly at work, and the crusher is being run night and day.

S. M.

DISCOVERY OF QUICKSILVER MINES IN RUSSIA.—A very important discovery of cinnabar mines has been recently made in the mining region of the Don, Russia. The ore is stated to contain from 69 to 80 per cent. of pure mercury.

It is estimated that at least 50 per cent of the gold coins in circulation in Great Britain are so worn as to have no legal right to pass current. One cause is that the metal used is too soft. It is 22-carat gold, whereas the gold coins of most other countries are nine-tenths fine. It is proposed that the life of gold coins should be extended by adding two grains of copper to each sovereign, thus hardening them and making them more durable.

COAL IN FRANCE.—The output of coal in France in the second half of last year was 10,157,630 tons. This total presents an increase of 780,919 tons, as compared with the output in the first half of 1885. The production of coal in France for the whole of 1885, was 19,534,341 tons, as compared with 20,023,514 tons in 1884.

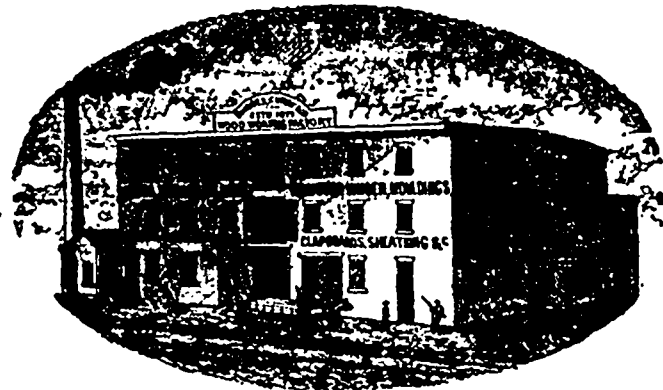
GEMS.—In view of the approaching sale of the crown jewels by the Republic of France, it is interesting to note that two of these are of American origin, a very beautiful amethyst and a sapphire, both of which were found in North Carolina.

A 9,000 pound mass of tin ore was recently exhibited at a smelting works in New York. It was taken out of a 29-foot vein in the well-known Euxine mine in the Black Hills.

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