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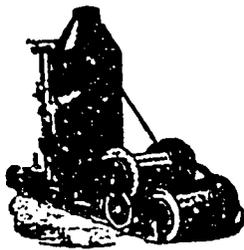
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## MINING.

## NOVA SCOTIA GOLD FIELDS.

By GEOFFREY F. MONCKTON.

The gold fields of Nova Scotia cover 6000 square miles, about 50 of which are being, or have been, scratched. The rocks in which the lodes are contained are supposed to be Cambrian, and are quartzites and slates. The slate sometimes contain gold, and one case at least occurs where the sides of a crack in the quartzites were lined with specks of gold. The lodes are quartz, and generally follow the strata in dip and strike, but occasionally cut them, when they are called "anglers." The beds having been tilted form anticlinals exactly similar to the saddle formation of Australia and California. On the question of the permanence of the lodes, Professor B. Silliman said: "There is no reason to fear that there will be any failure in depth in gold product or strength. The formation of the country is on too grand a scale geologically to admit of a doubt on this point so vital to mining success. Some of the lodes may be traced for miles."

The province of Nova Scotia has not produced as much as would be expected from thirty years' work, but the causes are not far to seek. It is for the most part covered with thick woods, intersected by deep and rapid rivers, and the surface soil is generally deep and wet. Its inhabitants are not a speculative race. Those among them who are enterprising invest their money in shipbuilding, which yields an immense profit, and the capital required to build wooden ships is not large. The law renders it easy for a man to obtain a good title without working a property, and the consequence is that large areas are held by men who cannot or will not work them.

Mining is usually carried on in this manner: The owner of a property leases it to a company for six months or a year. These tributaries will comprise a few working miners, a storekeeper who pays his calls in provisions and supplies at a modest 300 per cent. profit, and perhaps a small capitalist who pays in £10 or £20. They begin at the top, and take out everything that holds gold as they go down. They use as little timber as possible, and if the lode is wet only work on fine days. If the lode does not pay from the start one or two months will see the end; if it pays, they surrender the mine at the end of their lease to the owner of the property, and he demands an exorbitant rent which results in the mine being shut down. In rare cases he works it on his own account. Yet in spite of this system many mines have reached a depth of 300 feet, and the Wellington was worked to a depth of 1000 feet along the pay streak.

It is generally supposed that there is only one pay streak on a lode, but this is because the companies have not sufficient funds to explore the lodes, but are obliged to confine themselves to the rich part that they happen to strike on the surface. Where sufficient capital has been available, more than one pay streak has been found. The divining rod is in constant use. It is not, however, the hazel wand, but an arrangement of whalebone and brass (this last indispensable). Very large sums of money have been wasted on it, but the profitable mines found by means of the divining rod do not exist. Romantic stories are told about the discovery of several of the mines. That at Salmon River, which has yielded £140,000 in ten years, was found in this wise: A woman lost her cow. Thinking it had strayed into the woods for food, as the cleared land in that district forms only a fringe along the shore, she hired an Indian to look for it. He set out with a white man, and after searching five miles back they sat down on a boulder to rest. The white man amused himself with knocking the corner of the boulder with the back of his axe. A broken piece contained a yellow lump, which he contemptuously tossed away. The Indian picked it up, and asked him to lend his knife to cut out the yellow lump, but the other refused to allow it to be blunted by cutting rocks. So the Indian said it was no use looking for the cow any more, and carried the piece home. Apparently he sold his right to his discovery to every man he met, which resulted in several lawsuits. The boulders lying round were so rich and plentiful that for the first month all expenses were paid by breaking them up and mortaring gold out by hand. The lodes dip north and south. The main south one is 3 to 4 feet wide, and the north 12 to 24 feet thick. Another large lode underlies this one, and there are doubtless many others on the property. The deepest shaft is 250 feet, and the length of the pay streak 700 feet horizontally. The mine is efficiently equipped with hoisting gear driven by cable by water power of 120 horse power, and there is an old 20 and a new 40 stamp mill driven by water power also, which is supplied by a fall from 140, which horse power could be obtained. The rich mines of Molega, which have for some years yielded £10,000 annually, were found in a still more remarkable way. An American lady, who was in the habit of consulting the spirits, for several years used to come to Nova Scotia and camp out in the woods in summer with a few men to dig wherever the "spooks" kindly directed her. In 1885 they ordered her to go to Molega Barrens (the word barrens signifies a place over which forest fires have swept), and put a blast in a boulder, which they revealed to her. Then large nuggets would appear in it. She went and had the shot fired, but the gold that showed was finely disseminated. So she thought she had better wait for another revelation. Now, it happened that a man, who was not burdened with too much unearned increment, was in the woods and had the people talking. Hiding behind a rock he watched the whole proceedings. Having no qualms about spirits, he promptly took out all the gold he could, and took up the mining rights. It is said that he made £400 in a fortnight by mortaring. The Americans have lately invested largely in this district.

The other principal gold mining localities are Goldenville, which has produced £500,000; Waverley, £212,000; Oldham, £152,000; Montague, £133,000; Renfrew and Wine Harbor, £117,000. The total product has been £2,050,000, but scientific men say that from one-half to one-fourth as much more has been wasted, as no concentrators are used. The tailings