from which the gold thus far obtained has been won is less than 40 square miles. Taking the total value of the whole gold product to the first of the present year as $12,000,000, in round numbers, it will be seen that each square mile of surface upon which paying gold lodes have been found has yielded nearly $9,000 per year for each year since discovery, or $300,000 per square mile. The history of nearly every mine in Nova Scotia may be traced from official records in the Department of Mines, and its productiveness may be determined from the inception. An immense advantage is thus given to investors if they obtain mining properties with a record that a glance discloses the value of the mineral yielded from them. In almost every case where business prudence has been exercised in the selection of a property, or in the choice of a manager, success has been the result. During the past three years an impetus has been given to gold mining in Nova Scotia by the working in several places of large bodies of low grade ore. Several deposits yielding from three dollars to seven dollars per ton have been equipped with modern machinery and each of them has prospered, having earned dividends for the companies owning them. In many places these properties have been equipped with plants that will stand comparison for effectiveness and economy, with those of any other producing country in the world.

We hear that several undertakings are on foot having for their object the exploitation of the old river beds of the Chaudiere, Quebec. There is no doubt, as can be proved by the evidence furnished both from the reports of our Geological Survey and from other authentic sources, that in the ancient channels of nearly every stream tributary to the Chaudiere, above St Joseph, gold can be obtained in paying quantities with proper management and appliances.

The price of American asbestos mined on the Pacific coast has dropped from $50.00 per ton to $8.00 per ton.

At Brookfield, Nova Scotia, and at the Sultana mine, Lake of the Woods, chlorination works have been built and are in operation, these we believe being the first two gold mines in the Dominion to adopt a systematic treatment of their tailings and concentrates. Everywhere throughout Canada where gold mills have been operated, there are old dumps containing thousands of dollars but of such low grade that they have been regarded as of little value by their owners. In the early days of gold milling in Nova Scotia there was not so close a saving of values as modern machinery and methods have made possible and a considerable percentage of the precious metal escaped Even with the superior mechanical appliances of the present day there is considerable loss varying from 15 to 40 per cent. according to the character of the ore and the state in which the gold occurs In this connection the results accomplished by the Harguahala Gold Mining Company in Yuma County, Arizona, will be of interest to our gold miners The assistant manager's last report, on the operations for one month, is as follows; Pulp treated, 3,000 tons; average assay of pulp, $4.43 per ton; extracted acording to assays, 59 per cent.; bullion realized, $6,555; miscellaneous revenue $2; total revenue, $6,555; operating expenses, $3,784; expense, $623; total expenses, $4,407, showing a profit of $2,148.

With a view to aiding prospectors the Government of New Brunswick gives notice of its intention to purchase a diamond drill early next year. Parties using the drill will pay all operating expenses. A government drill should be of greater service in New Brunswick than it has proved in Ontario, particularly in locating and proving the value of its coal and iron resources.

The mining of any mineral can be, should be, nay, must be put and maintained upon the same footing or business management as the best operated of our railroads or other commercial undertakings. But mining enterprises worthy of the consideration of the investors must start upon the basis of meritorious properties more or less developed with a valuation at the outset to those investing in the exploitation honestly or equitably adjusted between the parties entrusted. Mere prospect holes—such as a great number of the properties now being promoted with a large capitalization from the the Trail Creek district, should be avoided. Assuredly a very large number of the schemes so plausibly put before the public at present by glib tongued yankee "boomers" will never begin to pay working expenses. Great caution must therefore be observed. There is an abundance of good mineral properties to be had in Canada by proper seeking at reasonable prices, the development of which to a profitable stage is an assured business matter if the same skill, care, judgment, energy and earnestness of purpose be brought to that end which are regarded essential for success in any other business enterprise. And while this is an absolute fact, at the same time, it can be claimed for mining enterprise that in no other undertakings is there such chance for making a great deal of money upon a comparatively small investment as from mining ventures.

The superintendent of the Philadelphia mint has made an important statement to the effect that if a free silver coinage law should be enacted at this time it could not be enforced. He points out that it would be a physical impossibility for the government to coin the silver which under the provisions of such a law would be dumped into the mints. The government vaults now contain 200,000,000 ounces of silver bullion and at the present minting capacity it would require five or more years to coin this into money before an ounce of the bullion which would be poured in under a free silver law could be touched. The superintendent claims that ten years would be required to increase the capacity of the mint, during which time bullion would be accumulating in such quantities that the mints would never be able to use it up. The answer of the average silverite may be anticipated. He wants the government to provide storage for vast accumulations of bullion, and then issue silver certificates to the coinage value of the bullion, at a ratio of 16 to 1. Really he does not want silver at all. In fact he would rather not have it. He wants paper.

Official returns of the mineral exports from the Kootenay district, British Columbia, for the year ended 30th June last, show:—

Gold	30,673 ozs.	of a value of	$552,135
Silver	1,459,629 "	" "	969,215
Copper	1,164.7 tons	" "	129,250
Lead	6,020 6 "	" "	220,849
			$1,871,449
Exported *via* Revelstoke			641,000
Total			$2,512,449

The report in mining circles that the Le Roi mine had been bonded to English capitalists for $5,000,000 is without foundation. It is quite true that several syndicates have had representatives looking over the property, but nothing more has been done. The output of the Le Roi is more than taxing the hauling capacity of the railroad. About 100 tons a day are being transferred. The company has also made arrangements with the Everett smelter to take 1,000 tons. About 50 tons a day are being hauled to Northport by teams, where it is transferred to the railroad.

During the past year our Canadian papers have been flooded with the specious advertisements of a company called the National Ore and Reduction Company, of St. Louis, Mo. This concern is a quack of the first water and has been humbugging the public under various guises for a number of years. Its status and antecedents are not such as would