



AUSTEN BROS.

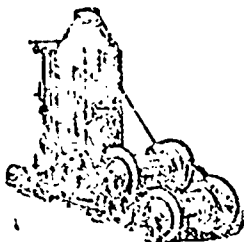
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MINING.

There are one or two matters of vital interest to gold miners which have been time and time again called to the attention of the Local Government by petition and otherwise, but so far without result.

The most important question is the establishment of an official assay office, for which there is a most decided demand. The arguments in favor of the appointment of such an official are unanswerable, and have been so often used by us that they have been worn almost thread-bare, so there is no necessity of repeating them here. What is now wanted is determined action on the part of miners and those interested in mines, and the appointment of an influential delegation to wait upon the Premier and Commissioner of Mines with a well digested plan of operation.

We have little doubt if speedy action is taken and the matter properly laid before the Premier, that his co-operation may be secured and an act introduced at the coming session of the Legislature for the appointment of an official assayer. If it is introduced as a government measure it will be certain to pass and its beneficial results will soon be apparent.

Mining news is difficult to obtain, the truth being that very little is now being done outside of the regular work on the old properties. The North Star Company has had its regular annual meeting and re-elected the old board as follows.—R. O. Bayer, Roderick MacDonald, Dr. Cameron, W. H. Johnson, H. K. Fisher, J. L. Jennison and W. H. Brookfield. At a subsequent meeting of directors Mr. Johnson was appointed secretary and treasurer.

Attachments have been issued against two properties, one of which it was reported was about being sold, while good reports continue to arrive of the prospects at Country Harbor and Wine Harbor. This is of course the dull season in mining and nothing new or interesting is to be expected for a month or two or until the opening of spring.

MOUNT UNIACKE.—The work on the West Lake property is progressing favorably and a quantity of ore is now being crushed at the company's mill. They are drifting on the lode east of the shaft and the ore is steadily increasing in richness as the work advances. The mill has also been crushing ore from the McCallum property.

LAKE CAICHA. The lessees of the east block of the Cogswell area continue to encounter rich ore in their work on the Coleman lead which is now being crushed at the Anderson mill. The Cambridge mill is being put in good order and when ready the ore will be treated there.

Mr. J. M. Reid, the manager of the Oxford, has returned from a long and well earned vacation spent in the States and will now devote some time to preliminary work preparatory to the beginning of extensive mining operations.

The Anderson mine is being steadily worked with good results.

IRON INDUSTRY.—Capitalists to develop the iron mines of Pictou County.—American capitalists are interested in one of the largest enterprises ever undertaken in N. S., the development of the iron mines that have long been known in Springville, Pictou County. It is the intention of this company to build a line of railway from New Glasgow to Country Harbor. The latter port to be thoroughly provided with wharves and shipping facilities for handling iron ore, coal, coke and general freight which would come through New Glasgow by the eastern extension. The company has secured large mining areas and proposes erecting blast furnaces and rolling mills for the production of steel rails. Some nine miles of this line have already been built between New Glasgow and Springville. A surveying party will start from Country Harbor to locate through towards Sunnybrae.—Herald.

An eminent mining engineer states: "After a full and careful examination of the different proportions made on the ground, and a minute inspection of the whole field, I am fully persuaded that nowhere in the world are there better facilities for the production of iron than on the East River, and that nowhere on the American continent can iron be produced at so low a cost."—Colonial Standard.

A NEW METHOD OF SINKING DEEP SHAFTS WHICH DISPOSES OF ALL WATER ENCOUNTERED.—An English engineer, Henry D. Avery, is the originator of a new idea in shaft sinking, by which it is made possible to keep the excavation free from water. To do this a large bore hole is first sunk on the site of the proposed shaft, and a pump is placed at the bottom of this hole. Whatever water may be encountered in sinking the shaft about this hole flows into the hole and is pumped to the surface. While this does not obviate the necessity of pumping, it keeps the excavation drained and free from water.

DR. RAE AGAIN HEARD FROM.—"The Rae dredging machine, which is intended to clean up the bed of the Carson River near Dayton, is to be put in operation very soon, it is said. The Boston people who have been putting up for this scheme for years deserve to be rewarded, but we cannot help remarking that for a small portion of the money expended the river might have been flumed and the bed rock polished."—Virginia City Chronicle, Jan. 1, 1901.

Eastern people habitually tumble headlong into all sorts of inconsiderate ventures connected to some extent with the industry of mining. In all such more or less visionary ventures they squander their money in considerable sums and then condemn the industry of mining with which, in point of fact, their foolish "cast of the net for fortune" has had no real connection at all.—The Financial and Mining Record.