

SOUTH UNIAKE.—Mr. Thompson, of Thompson & Quirk, had some magnificent samples of quartz, studded with coarse gold, taken from a ten inch lead on their property, the Eastville Mine. The returns from this property continue to prove its great richness.

PORT ARTHUR SILVER MINES.—*The Porcupine*—There are 75 men at work on this property, and operations are progressing apace. Good silver is being taken out right along and the mill is constantly running.

Climax.—The new find near the Badger is being worked with satisfaction to the owners. There are ten men employed. Drifting is being carried on, and they are now in on the vein 145 feet, with very rich ore.

The Augusta.—We intended last week noting the finding of rich silver at this mine. It is in the drift we have spoken of before in these columns, and at a point about where the vein would be intersected. It will be remembered that the shaft left the vein at a distance from the surface and that the drift was then begun. The vein was struck at a point 15 feet north-east and 30 feet south of the main drift, and when first entered upon was 14 inches wide, with the pay streak four or five inches in width and increasing and continuing on the hanging wall. A large number of stringers run from the south intersect and join the main vein, which carries one good wall. Drifting is still being carried on and will be continued for a distance of 75 feet further. When at that distance into the hill they will be from 135 feet to 140 feet below the surface, having from 55 feet to 60 feet overhead more than at present. It is expected that they will then have all the vein matter in that locality together. The vein found carries black and native silver and blende sulphides. It has every appearance of the West End rock when mineral was first struck there. The work is under the charge of Mr. W. Brandon, who is working night and day shifts.—*Herald and Algoma Miner.*

EXPLOSIVES COMMISSION.—Extracts from the report of the Commission on Explosives which met, lately in Stellarton:—The members of Commission present were Messrs Gilpin, Poole, Johnstone, Rea and Crosby. Mr. Gilpin was appointed chairman. The chairman read the section of the Act under which the Commission was appointed. The chairman, in reference to mode of procedure, said they might experiment with different explosives which would occupy time, or hear evidence of parties who had used them. He had a letter from the Sec'y of the Acadia Powder Co. claiming that they had explosives superior to any others in use. The question was, how to deal with such claims. Were they to say with regard to some particular case, "Here is an explosive that may be used with safety," or were they to leave the door open to others.

Mr. Poole said that some explosives which claimed to be flameless were under suspicion. They were, perhaps flameless under certain conditions. He assumed it would be the duty of the Commission to prepare a list of the explosives which produced no flame of a character likely to ignite gas, making the list as general as possible, so that the people who used explosives would be allowed a choice. He saw no objection to accepting the conclusions arrived at by the English, French and German commissions. The best evidence available was that based on numerous experiments, and this was to be had only abroad.

The chairman proposed that evidence be taken as to the safety of Roburite, and after that evidence could be taken in relation to any other explosive.

Mr. Poole read from a memorandum he had prepared. Referring to Roburite he said it absorbed moisture, and when moist would not explode. When dried it regains its explosive quality. He thought all these preparations if fired in an unconfined state would explode gas, but a little tamping would prevent this.

Mr. Johnstone asked how it was that when there were two Roburite cartridges placed in the same hole one would explode and the other would not.

The chairman asked whether the commissioners would approve of explosives composed in such a way that the temperature of ignition would be so many degrees below that of firedamp. Would this be safe?

Mr. Poole thought it would be—perfectly.

Mr. Johnstone said it was contended that a larger quantity of an explosive would ignite gas where a smaller quantity would not.

The chairman said it was not proposed to permit the use of the safest powder when gas was present. He thought, to arrive at a general rule, it would be a safe principle to adopt that no explosive should be approved of whose temperature was over 3,300 degrees, Fahr. This was 600 degrees less than the assumed point of ignition of firedamp.

Mr. Poole said that the temperature at which light would be seen would be still low enough not to ignite fire damp. He moved that the commission make the following recommendations:

"That composition of explosives recommended for use be registered in the government office at Halifax—not necessarily for publication."

"That such explosives shall not contain as a product of their detonation any combustible matter such as hydrogen, carbon-monoxide, solid carbon, etc."

Hon. Mr. Church asked how it was to be determined that any of the compounds contained objectionable compositions.

The chairman said, by analysis, which could only be done outside the Province.

Mr. Poole moved in addition to the foregoing resolution, "That the Inspector of mines be authorized from time to time to take samples of explosives for analysis from the makers, vendors, or consumers." Agreed to.

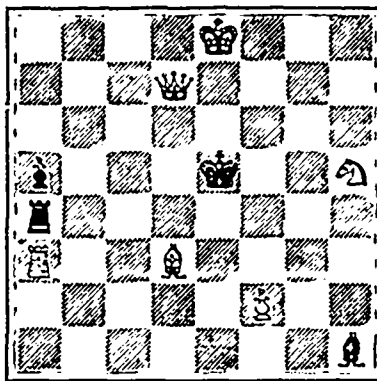
(To be continued.)

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 87.

First prize two-mover in *English Mechanic*.

By G. Heathcote, Manchester, Eng.
Black 4 pieces.



White 6 pieces.

White to play and mate in two moves

GAME No. 88.

The following game is fine, and a good illustration of Mr. Pollock's method of extricating himself from an uncomfortable position.

White Pollock. Black. Heumann.

1 P to K4 P to K4
2 Kt to KB3 Kt to QB3
3 P to QB3 Kt to KB3
4 P to Q4 P to Q3
5 B to Q Kt5 B to Q2
6 Q to K2 QKt to Kt sq

Starting a little counter-attack that turns White's attack into a defence.

7 B to QB4 Q to K2
8 Kt to Kt5 B to K3
9 Kt to B P to Kt
10 Castles QKt to Q2
11 P to B4 Castles
12 B to Q3 P to BP
13 B to P P to K4. If 14 P to P
White loses the attack entirely.

14 B to Kt3 P to KR3
15 Kt to Q2 P to K Kt4
16 P to Q5 Q to R2
17 P to Q Kt4 The attack on both sides now becomes interesting.

18 P to QR4 P to R5 Something must go.

19 B to KB2 Kt to R4
20 Q to K3 Kt to B5
21 B to Q Kt5 Preparing his surprise party.
22 Kt to B3 Q to Kt5
23 Kt to K sq P to R6
24 P to Kt3 Kt to Kt7
25 Q to R5 Kt to Kt
26 B to B6! which now comes off with great success.

P to B and White gave mate in five moves.—*Gazette.*

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