

MINING.

"Gilpin on Coal Mining in Nova Scotia" is the title of a neat pamphlet printed by John Lovell & Son of Montreal, and adds another number to the series of able papers read by the Inspector of Mines before the various scientific societies of which he is a member and which have done so much to spread information of the most valuable kind in regard to the mineral wealth of this Province. The paper, originally read before the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, gives a most interesting history of coal mining in Nova Scotia, describing the old and new systems of workings adopted at various collieries, the development of the trade, and the pumping, hoisting and ventilating apparatus in use. The tables of information which are numerous have been carefully revised and present a mass of facts, invaluable to the mining engineer or to those interested in coal mining. In tracing the growth of the coal trade Mr. Gilpin bears us out in one of our arguments and that is, that reciprocity with the United States, most ardently to be wished for in many respects, would damage our coal trade. He says:—"Last year (1887) the States took 73,892 tons (of which about 50,000 tons were small) out of a total of 1,519,684 tons sold. These figures show the steady growth of the home market and the fact that there is at present little room for Nova Scotia coal in the New England markets. The mutual removal of the duties on soft coal would in the opinion of many of the provincial coal mine managers result in the almost total loss of the Upper St. Lawrence trade, without the prospect of replacing it by a trade with the Eastern seaboard of the United States, which would have to start with a basis of at least 750,000 tons."

The latter part of the pamphlet contains the discussion evoked, which was participated in by Sir Wm. Dawson, Mr. J.H. Bartlett, Messrs. Brown, Poole, Archibald, Gishorne, and others, by which much valuable information was adduced, especially on the subject of the shipment and handling of coal. Sir Wm. Dawson's remarks are so appropriate and come from such a high authority that they form the best criticism of the paper and prove the well merited esteem in which the Author is held by those best fitted to judge. We consequently quote them. "Sir Wm. Dawson in the course of his remarks referred to the good work done by Mr. Gilpin in connection with coal mining in Nova Scotia, and said that he was indebted to him for much information and assistance in connection with the Geology of the Province of Nova Scotia."

Mr. Gilpin's history of the coal mining of the Province was very interesting and in the main correct. The name Pictou is said to have originated with the old Mic-Macs because of the gaseous emanations which were continually taking place on the outcrops of the coal seams, and the mines of the county had been opened by private enterprise a long time before they were acquired by the General Mining Association. He referred in this connection to some of the early pioneers of coal mining in Pictou.

The coal wealth of Nova Scotia was undoubtedly great, and it would be long before anything like exhaustion took place. On the contrary the mining was only beginning to be developed and he had no doubt that the time would come when Nova Scotia and Cape Breton would become the England of the Dominion and great centres of population. Mining and minerals, unless a great change took place, would undoubtedly form the basis of the wealth of the Dominion and determine the position of the great cities of the future."

In addition to the already published official returns received at the Mines Office for the month of March, the Parker-Douglass mine, Moiega, Queens County, returns 71 ozs. gold from 120 tons of quartz crushed, and the Caffrey mine 9½ ozs. from 10 tons of quartz.

The case of Putnam vs. Hardman & Taylor was tried before Mr. Justice Weatherbe and a jury, the jury finding a verdict in favor of the plaintiff on all the questions submitted. The trial occupied the attention of the Court for several days, and there was a brilliant array of counsel on both sides. Weeks, Q. C., King, Q. C., and Barss, assisted by Mr. McInnis of the Boston bar, appeared for the plaintiff, while Henry, Q.C., Harrington, Q.C., Meagher, Q.C., and Messrs. Drysdale and Newcomb appeared for the defendants. The Judge's charge to the jury was a very able and exhaustive one, occupying some four hours in delivery. His judgment was for the plaintiff on all the findings of the jury. We understand that an appeal will be taken.

The *Gold Hunter* has its usual budget of news showing that gold mining in Queens County is booming. At the last clean up of the Moiega Mine, a gold brick weighing 211½ ozs. gold was realized from 189 tons of ore. At Whiteburn and North Brookfield mining work is being vigorously pushed. At Westfield Mr. J. M. Martin, who is superintending the works of the Westfield Mining Company, has now completed a large boarding house, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, stable, office, etc.

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