

well for its future success and influence. There were present H. S. Poole, F. G. S., A. K. S. M., Acadia Coal Co., Stellarton; John E. Hardman, S. B., Oldham Gold Co; George Stuart, Duncan McDonald, James Baird, Wm. Smail, Chas. Archibald, R. H. Brown, R. G. Leckie, J. R. Lithgow, E. Gilpin, Jr., J. M. Reid, C. E. Willis, G. J. Partington, Howard Clarke, B. C. Wilson, J. H. Austen, F. Taylor, Capt. G. McDuff, T. R. Gue, Geo. E. Francklyn, W. H. Huggins and H. M. Wyldo, secretary. Mr. Leckie said that in reference to the suggestion contained in Mr. Bell's letter, that an excursion of the American institute of mining engineers be organized to visit Nova Scotia, he was strongly of the opinion that it was the very worst season of the year to visit Nova Scotia and to examine its varied and excellent resources. We all know how difficult it is to travel in February, and he had known some friends of his to be delayed for a week on account of a storm at that season of the year. He himself had been delayed, and thought it would be unpleasant to have a large number of ladies and gentlemen buried in a snow drift, with nothing to eat or drink. Then we should have no way to entertain them here; the days are too short, roads bad, and nothing going on. That was why he moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. E. Hardman and passed unanimously; "That while acknowledging with pleasure the interest entertained by the Quebec Mining association in the mining industries of this province, and also expressing our most cordial desire to again entertain the members of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in Nova Scotia at a suitable and convenient season of the year: Resolved, that in the opinion of the members of this society the month of February would be a most unfavorable season to view the varied resources of this province, and also that the difficulties and uncertainties of travelling are great at that period of the year. Further, that the representatives of this society to the Montreal convention be, and they are requested to consult with the officials of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, with a view to holding their autumn meeting here next year."

It was moved by J. E. Hardman and seconded by Chas. Archibald as follows:—"In view of the importance of the February meeting in the matter of legislation affecting mines, this society deems it wise and expedient that the provincial government should be represented at the meeting: Therefore be it resolved that the secretary is hereby instructed to communicate with the hon. commissioner of public works and mines and to request, on behalf of the society, that Dr. Gilpin be appointed the official representative of the province at that meeting." Papers on "Late modification of coal mining in Nova Scotia" were read by Mr. Charles Archibald, manager Gowrie Coal Mining Company, Cow Bay C. B.; Mr. James Baird, manager Canada Coal Company, Joggins Mines, N. S., and by Mr. H. S. Poole, for J. G. Rutherford, asst. general manager Acadia Coal Company, Stellarton, N. S. All of the above papers will be printed in the Mining Society's report.

The sworn gold returns at the mines office and the statistics based on them are in the main fairly correct, but in some instances there is a strong suspicion that they have been doctored by mine owners for various reasons, and rumors loud and deep continually reach us that the act is being evaded. These may be all wrong and simply an expression of malice, but there would hardly be so much smoke without some fire, and it behooves the department of mines to remove all cause or possibility of such misunderstanding by a strict enforcement of the mines regulation act, and a rigid inspection of gold mines and mining accounts. The leading officials in the department are now overworked, and we wish in no way to add to their burdens, therefore we advocate the appointment of a special inspector to devote all his time and attention to gold mines. It now appears probable that a large amount of capital will be invested in our gold mines during the coming year, and the inspector will have abundant work to occupy his time. A conscientious official will be able to remedy many abuses, and be of benefit both to the government and the honest gold miner. Some rumor has it that in the past, and at present, the returns are doctored for various reasons, none of them with the intent of defrauding the Government out of the small royalty exacted, as it is hinted that, with the idea of working up a sale, the returns have in some instances been made much larger than they really were, the small extra amount paid in royalty being returned a thousand fold by the sale of the mine. Then again when suits were pending that might result in the loss of the mines to the occupiers and workers, it has been claimed that the returns have been made much below the actual figures, and the same state of affairs is supposed to exist where parties wished to bear districts and secure adjoining properties for little or nothing. In still other cases the correct amount of gold is returned, but less tons of quartz, and in this way the yield of gold per ton of quartz is largely increased. It is true that the returns are all sworn to, but there are doubtless ways by which unscrupulous men could evade the strict requirements of the act and still not disturb their consciences. It would therefore be better for all concerned if evasions of the act were made hazardous by frequent inspections, and that gold mining returns and statistics were placed in the same unquestionable position with coal returns.

QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION OF LEAD.—In the Journal of the German Chemical Society, Dr. Medicus describes his method of quantitatively determining the lead in galena. After converting the lead into chloride he dissolves the chloride in potash-lye and passes a current of carbonic acid through the solution for two hours. The precipitated carbonate is filtered off, washed, dissolved in nitric acid and the lead is then precipitated electrolytically as peroxide. Dr. Medicus also describes his method of precipitating lead from the alkaline solution as peroxide by means of bromine. The chloride is dissolved as before in potash-lye, and the solution is poured into a flask and the neck closed by a cork which has two perfora-

tions for the introduction and escape of gas. A slow current of gaseous bromine is then passed through the entrance tube above the liquid, which during the operation is gently heated. The bromine is readily absorbed and the lead is deposited as peroxide. The filtration is best effected by exhaustion through finely divided asbestos between two discs of asbestos paper.

Ontario.—The first annual report of the new mining bureau has just been issued. The total value of the mineral products of Ontario for the year 1891, according to the estimates given in the report were only \$4,705,673. Some of the principal items are as follows: Phosphate, \$50,800; salt, \$157,000; mica, \$31,200; silver, \$64,476; petroleum, \$1,209,658; and nickel, \$324,240. This is a very poor showing in view of the extent and variety of the mineral resources of the province. But it is almost impossible to interest Canadian capitalists in mining enterprises right at their very doors, and instead of offering special inducements for outside capitalists to come in and develop our mines, the Ontario Government has enacted restrictive legislation, putting a royalty on ores. The effect of this short-sighted policy is quite apparent in this district. Since the new law was passed, now over eighteen months ago, not a single new company has started any actual mining operations here, and very little development work of any kind has been done. Capital has been frightened away, even though the royalty is not to be exacted for a number of years on any of the mines, and the greater part of the nickel range was bought up before the new law came into force.

But in spite of all such artificial obstructions, things are beginning to look up in mining here this fall, with the prospects of considerable activity in the spring. The main cause of this welcome change is no doubt the increasing demand for nickel. The British Admiralty has been experimenting largely of late with nickel armor for the numerous battle ships now in process of construction. Such armor has been proved to be distinctly superior to ordinary steel plates, and especially when used in thicknesses of 3 or 4 inches, according to a memorandum published by Lord George Hamilton for the guidance of the Imperial Parliament in voting the supplies for the Admiralty this year. Besides, mining men in the United States and elsewhere are beginning to know that a great many first class nickel properties are still to be had here, which are free from government royalties or conditions of any kind.

Coming to the mines, the smelter at the Coppercliff was closed down last week for repairs, a very large rock house has been erected at the Stobie, and a shaft house is being built at the Davis mine. All the other mines are working as usual, some of them with an increased number of hands.—*The Engineering and Mining Journal.*

If you are at all curious to try something new, write Percy J. L. Lear, Atlantic Cigar Manufacturing Association, 221 Barrington St, Halifax, for particulars.

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