

experience shows that phosphate mining affords a good prospect of a fair commercial gain, but offers a small chance of a great speculative profit. The well-selected property, managed and worked with close economy, will, at present market prices for phosphate, give a return that will be satisfactory to the reasonable investor. But a public company, promoted at great cost, saddled with honorary expenses, obtaining lands at inflated values, and carrying on its work in an extravagant or ill-considered fashion, has a small chance of success.

We would, therefore, urge Canadians to work their lands themselves. They can usually obtain additional working capital at home or abroad in return for a share in their enterprises; and they should be content to accept aid on these terms and look to their legitimate earnings for their reward.

For a year and a half there has been a "phosphate boom" in London, but it has been overwhelmed by the discovery that "all the phosphate land in Canada was for sale." Now Florida phosphates have diverted the attention of speculators, and it may as well be understood that the Canadian boom has burst; and we must add that it has done but little good and a great deal of harm. Let Canadians go to work and do an honest mining business instead of trying to unload their lands upon foreign "syndicates." Then they will have buyers coming to them to purchase their productive mines, and they will in the end have more profit, greater self-respect, and a better reputation than have been gained by the late fruitless efforts to dispose of indefinite mining "prospects" for definite cash.

#### Profit Sharing at English Ironworks.

On Saturday morning the result was made known of the ballot taken the previous evening, of the workmen employed by the Thames Ironworks & Shipbuilding Co., limited, on the question of the adoption of the proposed scheme for profit sharing submitted to the men by Mr. H. F. Hills, the managing director.

The objects of the scheme were set forth—(1) to unite the interests of all concerned in the works, and to provide that the workmen shall participate in the prosperity of the company; (2) to prevent the friction, waste, and consequent loss from antagonistic views as to the relative claims of capital and labor under varying conditions of trade; (3) to emphasize the fact that in the Thames Ironworks it is in the power of workmen by individual exertions so to improve the work and economise the cost of labor as to enable the company to give them a share of the profits. The conditions were that after receiving £23,750 per annum as interest upon the shareholders' existing capital, the remainder of the profits should each year be equally divided between the company and their employees. Arrangements were made for the keeping of accounts to and for the election of a representative council of sixteen—eight by the company and eight by the workmen of the different trades. Men after six months were to be entitled to participate in the division of profit; the proportion earned by those not in the service six months was to be and form the basis of a provident fund to be administered for the men in a manner agreed upon. It was to be understood that the adoption of the scheme (outside the conditions) would leave the company and the men entire freedom in other respects, and the scheme was to be determined at twelve months' notice on either side. It was first published in April last soon after a strike of joiners at the yard, and was, when put to the vote, emphatically rejected. But the minority of the men, dissatisfied at the result, called the whole workmen together, and negotiations were apparently settled satisfactorily—the six months' service was altered to three months, and six months were fixed upon as the determining period—and the men, having taken the counsel of

various trades unionists, co-operative and socialistic leaders, it was hoped that the next poll of the men would decide to adopt the scheme, a great point being that when it was adopted the definite rules would be formulated by the representative committee, and be submitted to the directors. The poll was by ballot this time, and when the figures were announced they surprised even the more sanguine of the opponents of the scheme. For adoption 507 voted, against 1,206; 107 were neutral, and 15 ballot papers were spoilt. The votes were counted in the presence of the representatives of the men and the company.—*London Iron and Steel Trades Journal.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### The New Phosphate District.

TORONTO, October 13th, 1890.

The Editor:

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article in your issue of last month as to a new phosphate district which has been discovered about fifty miles north-west of Peterborough, and which has been visited by Mr. William Watt of Perth. Doubtless this is the district which our company has lately been operating in as we understand Mr. Watt lately visited it, and as it is important that this new district should not be injured at the start by such unreliable information as you appear to have received about it, I am instructed to send you a short report that was made to us some time ago by a gentleman who visited the district but who is wholly unconnected with this company.

We would be glad if you would help to remove the false impression that your article may have left with the public regarding this district by publishing this report in the next issue of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW.

The name of the gentleman who made the report can be furnished to you at any time if you so desire it.

Yours, etc.,

J. S. LOCKIE,  
Secretary Haliburton Mining Co., Ltd.

### REPORT REFERRED TO:

Classification of mines in the Townships of Monmouth and Dudley, in the County of Haliburton, lately opened up by the Haliburton Mining Company, Ltd.

#### NO. 1 UPPER, LOT 15, CON. II.

Cutting 10 ft. deep and about 40 ft. long. Large deposits of phosphate, calcine and mica. (Large sample red and green phosphate.) Lots of rock phosphate thrown out which could be cobbled.

#### NO. 2 UPPER, LOT 16, CON. II.

Fine, clean red rock phosphate at the top; also red and green in the workings.

#### NO. 3 UPPER, LOT 17, CON. 12.

Vein crossing north-east and south-west; width about 20 feet. Very large masses of red rock phosphate; also plenty of mica.

#### NO. 2, SAME LOT, CON. 3.

500 yards from No. 1; also very fine deposit of red and green phosphates. Phosphate abounding on the surface. Natural drainage from the shaft.

#### NO. 4, LOT 17, CON. 12.

Just uncovered; same appearance or indication as Nos. 1 and 2. Slightly lower down the hill, with very fine deposit of rock phosphate, equal to any of the others.

#### NO. 1 LOWER, LOT 15, CON. II.

Very fine deposits of green and red rock phosphate. On the cobbled or waste rock from 10 to 20 per cent. of phosphate adhering to it is absolutely wasted from want of proper machinery for dressing the same, and this applies to all the other deposits mentioned. This pit is about 14 ft. surface. (A very large specimen weighing two or three hundred pounds.) At this time there is ten to twelve tons of clean phosphate ready to ship.

#### NO. 2, LOWER, LOT 14.

Very large bed of red and green phosphate very near the surface; the pit is about 11 feet deep, phosphate showing at both ends, three feet solid at one of the ends and pretty near the same at the other. About three tons cobbled; enough to make a carload on surface uncobbled,

NO. 3 LOWER, LOT 13.

Eastern boundary. A very great depth of gray and red rock phosphate. Rock coming between the two beds of phosphate. This looks promising.

DUDLEY MINE.

Crystal and rock phosphate on the surface, also in the pit and lots of mica. This phosphate is also of the highest quality, and being only just opened a large vein can be traced to great advantage, but it is anticipated the vein can be approached under more favourable circumstances.

All of the above phosphates are of the very highest grade. An analysis made by Professor Chapman of Toronto University of some of this phosphate shows it to be equivalent to tribasic phosphate of lime 88.89 per cent.

[We cheerfully publish the above and hope that the expectations concerning the new phosphate district will be realized. The best proof of its value would be the production of ore. Our previous informant—a gentleman who, by the way, is fair, unbiassed and thoroughly practical—stated that as the result of three or four months' work on one property he saw one ton of clean phosphate and ten tons of uncobbled rock. The report given above mentions an output of 10 to 12 tons from one pit, and three from another, with a car load to be cobbled. This is the kind of evidence wanted, and not mineralogist's statements of "very large masses," "very fine deposit," "phosphate abounding," "very large bed," "a very great depth of phosphate," etc. A property that answers to this description might soon speak for itself and needs no puffing by experts. We speak in another column concerning the evil tendency to fix up properties for sale instead of working them productively.—Ed.]

### The Duty on Mining Machinery.

OTTAWA, 24th Sept., 1890.

The Editor:

MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. Tupper desires me to acknowledge your letter of the 19th inst., and to say that he has asked the Commissioner of Customs for a full report on the subject of your communication.

Mr. Tupper will lay this report before the Privy Council if Mr. Bowell has not returned when the report is ready.

Yours very truly,

C. C. CHIPMAN.

OTTAWA, 20th October, 1890.

The Editor:

DEAR SIR,—Replying to your letter of the 17th inst., I beg to say that I have placed your application with reference to the duties on silvered-copper plates for gold mill amalgamators before the Minister of Customs who has, as you are aware, returned to Ottawa since your previous communication upon the same subject.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. TUPPER.

**Tests to be Applied to Slate.**—Prospectors looking for slate quarrying locations are often at a loss to know when they really have a good slate. The few following simple rules, familiar to those in the trade, will enable them to distinguish a bad slate from a good one, with sufficient certainty to be useful:—

(1.) As a rule, good slate when struck gives a clear, bell-like sound.

(2.) It is generally considered a good sign when it shatters more or less before the edge of an axe.

(3.) Light blue slate is less absorbent, as a rule, than black blue varieties.

(4.) Good slate has a hard, rough feel, while an absorbent slate feels smooth and greasy.

(5.) The absorptive powers of a slate may be tested in two ways. 1. Place the slate on edge half immersed in water. If it draws up the water and becomes wet at the top in six or eight hours, it is spongy and bad. The extent to which the water ascends is roughly the measure of absorption. 2. Weigh a piece of the slate dry and then again after immersion in the water for twelve hours, after wiping off the superficial moisture; if it shows much increase in weight it is too absorbent to be good.