

It is a deliberate attempt to mislead the public, and to manufacture opposition to a very wise measure, which will only react against its movers.

The syndicate will of course obtain as high a price for its coal as possible, but the laws of supply and demand in the Dominion will prevent any great increase. We note that the Hon. A. G. Jones, in an interview, admits that it was the duty of seventy-five cents that gave our mines the markets of the St. Lawrence. Remove this and Welsh and English coal will at once compete at present prices. Besides, the syndicate will control only a portion of the Cape Breton area, and in Pictou and Cumberland outside of the mines now being worked there are many unworked areas which will under the stimulus now given to the coal trade be soon opened up.

They have had to pay to the Cape Breton coal mine owners the prices they considered their properties worth. The owners are certainly the best judges of the value of their mines, and if they could see the immense profits from them the *Herald* predicts the syndicate will make, they certainly are very benevolent to sell out at the prices they are receiving. On this point the *Herald* is of course a better authority than they, but we note that that journal in one editorial claims that the syndicate are to at once double their money, and in the next states that "the scheme has the support of a number of professed Liberal Conservatives, but so far as we can learn they are interested directly or indirectly in mining areas or other property which is being unloaded on the Whitney syndicate at high prices." Professed Liberal Conservatives is good, when applied to such men as the McKeens, the Archibalds, McLennans, Archbalds, Lithgows and others, but letting this pass, the two editorials prove the lengths to which the *Herald* will go in its insane desire to injure the syndicate.

A great deal has been said and written against the ninety nine years lease, but when it is understood that the present leases are really renewable for three terms of twenty years each, or eighty years in all, and that leases may be surrendered before their expiry and taken up for another term of eighty years, it will be seen that there is nothing in this objection.

The Whitney Syndicate, before investing several millions in this Province, wished to secure a lease that would not be subject at each renewal to increased royalty. As a consideration for this they agreed to pay a royalty of 12½ cents per ton, an increase of 2½ cents over the usual rate, provided the government would give them a continuous lease for ninety-nine years. To this the government assented, and further stipulated that the syndicate should bind themselves to pay a minimum royalty of \$125,000 yearly. This also was agreed to, and for the slight concession given the government exacted ample compensation and drove a very hard bargain.

Looked at from any point of view there is nothing in the objections raised against the syndicate and the coal bill worthy of the name of argument, and we are forced to the conclusion that Mr. Van Horne is right, and that the opposition to the bill is largely the result of disappointment at not being in some way interested, or what is more likely of sheer jealousy of those who are profiting through their enterprise in promoting the most beneficial mining scheme that was ever introduced into Nova Scotia.

**GOLD RETURNS**—Very few gold returns have been received at the Mines Office for the month of January.

The North Star Mine, Stormont district, returns 150½ ozs. gold from 86½ tons quartz crushed. The Antigonish Co., same district, 155½ ozs. gold from 308 tons quartz crushed. The Cariboo (Moose River District) has two returns, the D. Touquoy Mine, 101 ozs. gold from 428 tons quartz and slate crushed, and the Moose River Gold Co. 22 ozs. gold from 180½ tons crushed.

The Dufferin Mine, Salmon River, is looking up, the returns for October were 86 ozs. gold from 400 tons quartz.

November...	95	"	"	"	450	"	"
December...	110	"	"	"	400	"	"
January.....	90	"	"	"	350	"	"

**OLDHAM.**—The stamp mill on the property at Oldham owned by the "Columbia Gold Mining Company," was started on Monday by Superintendent Carpenter. It was shut down again to make some changes in the screens and will soon be in regular commission. Parties interested in this rich district will hear of the starting of the new mill with pleasure, as it will stimulate mining in that locality. The company have plenty of quartz on hand for crushing and are now mining good pay ore.

**FIELDING AND CHURCH.**—This is an action brought by Mr. Geo. H. Fielding, barrister of Halifax, against Hon. Chas. E. Church personally, to recover the value of an interest in the Annand mine, which was lost, it is alleged, through the commissioner refusing to register the transfer, while registering a transfer covering the same areas to the late Charles Annand of a later date. There are some interesting points involved, and from what we have seen of the evidence, we should judge that the facts were somewhat involved. In another issue, when we have more space, we will give a sketch of the facts. The case does not in any way affect the title now held by the Nova Scotia Gold Mines, limited, as there was nothing on the records to show that Mr. Fielding held the interest.

**DOMINION COAL COMPANY, LTD.**—The organization meeting of the Dominion Coal Company took place at Boston on Friday last, when the following officers were elected:—President—H. M. Whitney, Boston; Treasurer—John S. McLennan, Montreal; General Manager—F. S. Pearson, Boston; Resident Manager—D. McKeen, North Sydney; Secretary—B. F. Pearson, Halifax; Directors—H. W. Dimock, New York; Robert Winsor, of Kidder, Peabody & Co.; Alfred Winsor, President of the Boston Towboat Company, (senior member of the firm of Alfred Winsor & Son, who do a large business with Nova Scotia); W. B. Ross, barrister,

Halifax; Sir Donald Smith, W. C. Van Horne and Hugh McLennan, Montreal. The business will be managed by a committee of four, who will almost have the same power as the board of directors. Nothing has been settled as regards the Halifax agency. Mr. B. F. Pearson will not remove to Boston, but will continue to reside in Halifax.

*To the Editor of the Critic:* It is a matter of complaint that Halifax and Nova Scotia people have sent money away out of the country to put in mining investments and decline to aid mining enterprises in this province. In the case of some of the stocks sold in Halifax lately the almost unknown properties owned by the companies using the stocks and the remarkable "boom," "boom" style of prospectus used should have been sufficient to have warned people not to gamble so recklessly in these unquoted stocks. That this should have been done with silver stocks is an evidence that Halifax buyers have neglected to note what is mentioned by a leading and reliable mining and financial journal, viz; that silver properties are unprofitable under the circumstances under which silver has gone down in price that many silver mines are closing down on account of not being able to pay dividends, and that the demands for new properties are for gold mines in preference to silver.

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**MONTREAL MEETING OF MINING SOCIETIES**—Some twenty-seven members of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, accompanied in some instances by their wives, left on Monday by the Canada Pacific express to attend the united meeting of mining societies at Montreal. Through some delay they did not arrive at Montreal until Wednesday morning, too late to participate in the opening ceremonies. This is to be regretted as Premier Fielding was to have delivered an address at the opening.

### PICTOU CHARCOAL IRON CO., LTD.

This company was incorporated under the laws of Nova Scotia in November 1891 with an authorized capital of \$200,000 divided into 1000 ordinary shares of \$100 each and 1000 preference shares of \$100 each. The property of the company consists of 5,000 acres heavy old growth hardwood and the wood on an additional 1,000 acres in the vicinity.

2nd.—The mining rights on the Grant Bros. farm at Bridgeville, at the very door of the works and 400 acres only a few miles distant, not liable to government royalty, also the right to search on 5 square miles at Blanchard; on all of which areas good ore has been found.

3rd.—The limestone deposits on Grant's and McDonald's farms at Bridgeville and McLean's at Springville.

4th.—The furnace grounds at Bridgeville comprising 11½ acres of land on Grants farm where the plant is now erected and in operation; ½ mile of track connecting the works with the New Glasgow Iron, Coal and R. R. Co's, railroad from Eureka Junction to Sunny Brae), with branch roads graded from the track to stock house and coal shed.

The buildings comprise office 28 ft. x 38 ft. with 9 ft. x 16 ft. annex. Engine house 35 ft. x 70 ft. Stock house, coal shed and casting house, the former 40 ft. x 70 ft. x 21 ft. posts, with a capacity of 6,000 bushels of charcoal, the later 130 ft. x 52 ft. x 14 ft. posts with ventilators 10 ft. x 4 ft. running the whole length of the casting house.

The workshops and furnace buildings are covered roof and sides with corrugated iron.

The hoist tower 70 feet high, also covered with the same material has double elevators and the boiler house 20 ft. x 32 ft. has iron frame and iron roofing.

The working plant proper is compactly arranged, with furnace stack 50 feet high and 11 feet bosh with crinoline strapping and red brick "shell," supported by 6 iron columns and having a wrought iron mantle, water-cooling jacket and 6 bronze tuyers and water blocks. The top provided with a Weimar friction winch and gas seal; the down corner 36 feet clear, bustle and blow pipe, 15 feet diameter with butterfly valve.

The hot blast is so arranged that a high degree of temperature (800° or 900° F), can be easily maintained with a very small amount of fuel (gas).

The boilers are built in sets of two, with separate iron drafts and independent steam and water connections, so as to be worked separately if desired, each set being sufficient to operate the entire blast, the fuel being the waste gases from the blast furnace.

Gas burners of special design with combustion chambers arranged to cause quick ignition and complete combustion are provided.

Water supply for washing ore has been amply provided for; while provision for roasting and screening the same has also been made.

The ore mined is a fine quality of brown hematite; and the supply is practically inexhaustible, while lime abounds in the localities already mentioned.

Kilns of brick (about 20 in number), have been erected for burning the charcoal on the woodland owned by the company, and the work of transferring the coal (which is done in enormous wooden boxes on wheels or runners as is now the case) is being vigorously pursued.

The furnace is now in operation, and under the energetic management of Mr. E. A. Sjöstedt formerly general manager of the Kithazin Iron Works, Maine U. S. A., who has had a life long experience in the manufacture of iron in his native land (Sweden), and in the United States, it has realized all expectations.

The output is about 15 tons per day, while the quality of the iron is all that can be desired. Several shipments have already been made, and given perfect satisfaction.