



CONDUCTED BY . . . . . H. T. A. BELL.

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## THE OFFICIAL ORGAN

THE GOLD MINERS' ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE UNITED MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE ASBESTOS CLUB, QUEBEC.

THE GENERAL MINING ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC.

THE following Resolutions of Council indicate beyond a peradventure the status of THE REVIEW as the exponent of the Canadian Mineral Industries:—

The Gold Miners' Association of Nova Scotia.

"At the annual meeting of the Gold Miners' Association of Nova Scotia, held at Halifax on 6th March, 1889, THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW was adopted the official organ of this Association.  
(Signed), B. C. WILSON, President,  
G. J. PARTINGTON, Secretary.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia.

"Moved by Mr. R. G. Leckie, seconded by Mr. C. A. Dimock, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Mr. H. T. A. Bell for his kind offer placing the columns of THE REVIEW at the disposal of the Society; and that THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is hereby appointed the official organ of the Society.  
(Signed), H. S. POOLE, President,  
H. M. WYLDIE, Secretary.

The Asbestos Club, (Quebec.)

"Resolved: That THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is, by authority of the Members and Council, hereby appointed the official organ of the Asbestos Club.  
(Signed), D. A. BROWN, President,  
A. M. EVANS, Secretary.

The General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec.

At a meeting of Council held at Montreal on Friday, 4th May, 1894, it was moved by Captain Adams, seconded by Mr. R. T. Hopper, and resolved: "That THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW be the official organ of this Association.  
(Signed), GEORGE IRLINE, President,  
H. T. A. BELL, Secretary."

## The Protection of Forests against Fire.

This subject is of no light importance to the mining interests of the country, whether the forest be looked upon as a storehouse of fuel for operating mining machinery, or for metallurgical use, or for timber for protecting excavations, and for mining structures and dwellings. The use of timber for all of these purposes in active mining operations is enormous, and especially so in the manufacture of charcoal. The destruction of the forest through recklessness has been so great in many localities as to render it impossible to entertain the project of smelting valuable ores found there, and along with this the cost of engine fuel, mining timber and lumber is so largely increased by the expensive haul over a rough and difficult country, that many ore properties, which in the presence of such a natural supply as existed thirty years ago would have been extremely valuable, are now actually worthless. The estimate of the loss is easily computed thus: Given a fairly valuable ore and flux at any point whence pig iron may be easily shipped, every well wooded acre of land will give fuel worth \$100. An annual output of ten millions of dollars worth of charcoal iron is the approximately correct value of the American

production, and the same figure stands for the Swedish production. When due regard is given to the valuable industries which use this production in the raw material of various manufactures, some conception may be attained of the value of forest fuel. There would be little use to call from the Trade Reports the figures which express our yearly tribute to the United States for coal if there was any adequate sense in the mind of the people or their law makers of the yearly increasing drain upon the wealth of the country through the criminally wanton destruction of the forest. Here is the coal bill paid to the United States by Ontario and Quebec in the years 1885 to 1892 inclusive, coke excepted:—

	ANTHRACITE	BITUMINOUS
	COAL.	COAL.
1885 ....	\$3,644,264	\$3,014,693
1886 ....	3,777,804	2,414,267
1887 ....	3,643,202	2,980,664
1888 ....	5,021,985	3,421,363
1889 ....	4,872,533	3,061,377
1890 ....	4,261,810	3,339,520
1891 ....	4,893,225	4,146,054
1892 ....	5,289,992	4,031,611

Totals ... \$35,394,915 \$26,409,549  
or nearly sixty-two millions of dollars in eight years!

"The whole fire question in the United States," said Mr. Fenrow, Chief of the American Department of Forestry, in a public address, "is one of bad habits and loose morals." These terms sound like a strong indictment, but they do not sufficiently probe the sect of disease in the Canadian conscience. The instinct of the criminal, the *animus jurandi*, marks the people of this country in their relations to forest administration. The charge can be brought home to Crown Lands Departments, lumbermen, farmers, municipal councillors, judges on the bench, and jurors. Senator McLaren had to contest step by step to the Supreme Court his claim that a railway company should bonnet their locomotives and use the best appliances for arresting sparks from passing through the smokestacks. In Phelps vs. The Canada Southern Railway Co., Judge Henry dissented from the ruling of the Supreme Court in favor of the plaintiff on the ground that a second fire caused by sparks from a fire kindled on the railway company's property by sparks from their own locomotive, is a damage too remote to be a tort in law. The railway companies though candidates for all kinds of municipal and government bounties, make no hesitation in fighting at every point their liability for damages caused by fires from their locomotives, while the fact is that their roadways are for many years after construction tinder beds of old stumps and rotting timber, the removal of which by contractors should be insisted upon before the payment of one cent of bonus. The government has failed to protect the property of which it is the custodian, and has suffered the railways to do incalculable damage in this way, or in the case of land held under timber license, has in years gone by shielded itself behind the wretched excuse

that the protection of their limits was the business of the lumbermen. Now the expense of fire guardians is divided between the lumbermen and the government.

A small portion of the crime of which the wide spread brulées are the enduring record is the work of the railways. To the operation of the Free Grants Act must be ascribed the destruction of more timber, the waste of more public money, the loss of more individual capital and years of fruitless toil, than has attended any other ill starred enterprise in the Province of Ontario. The settlers have been distributed over an immense territory, along great stretches of ill-made roads. The latter have been of enormous value to the lumbermen, and the scanty agriculture which wins hay and oats from the burnt soil is chiefly of value in reducing the expenses of the forest kings. But we look in vain for the advantages which would have come to the settlers from being located in compact bodies on selected tracts where their united labors and taxes would have enabled them to maintain an efficient municipal and educational system. The roads are constant sources of expense; the settlement of the regions opened up makes no progress, the clearing up of tracts of new land, rendered necessary by the rapid wear of soil which has all been burned very deeply, exposes the forest everywhere that it has been penetrated by colonization roads to frequent and disastrous fires. Let a series of Crown Lands reports for 20 years be consulted and evidence will be found that "settlers' fires" have been a known cause of havoc. One will search in vain for a single prosecution, for one practical effort of any effective kind, to stay the destruction. Copies of the Act for the Prevention of Forest Fires have been circulated, but the settlers are perfectly aware of the innocent character of the warning. "What do you do," was asked of a fire guardian, "when you see a fire running from a fallow into the woods. Do you bring the offender to justice?" "No, I get an axe," was the answer, "and help him to put it out. I know better than to quarrel with settlers in the woods."

Strange to say, all efforts to obtain a practical investigation of the ravage going on and the consideration of efforts for its suppression, have been resisted by the majority in the Provincial Legislature. The Royal Mining Commission of 1890, reported that they "were struck with the appearance of many scenes of desolation where forest fires had swept over wide districts, leaving blackened tree trunks and fire scorched wastes in the place of hills and valleys once covered with timber. The loss to the Province from this cause has reached many millions of dollars within the last thirty years." And again, "the destruction of timber by forest fires is complained of by several witnesses as inimical to the mining industry." A ready facility for acquiring testimony on the subject would be afforded by an Act similar to that for the investigation of accidents by fire to dwelling houses, with this necessary amendment, that as the law, by making the free-grant settler's property