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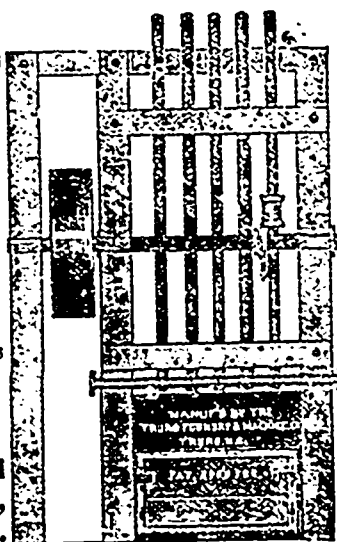
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ADDRESS

A. MILNE FRASER,
CRITIC OFFICE.

Halifax, N. S.

MINING.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

I am glad to see that your editorial remarks of some time ago have had the effect of drawing out so much information regarding the deep mining outlook. The miners generally ought to be grateful to your paper for interesting itself in the question.

The matter, in my opinion, is one of the gravest consequences to the future of our Province, and if you could only succeed in getting those interested in mining to see that from a selfish point of view it would pay every mine owner to become alive on this subject, I am confident that your efforts would be better appreciated. Why they don't awake I fail to see. It must be apparent to every thinking miner that first is the placer, next the surface or shallow lead, and next failure, if there is not to be found the second strike after the first is gone through; while, on the other hand, the deep mining, if started, forms the permanent, and becomes the substantial industry.

I am sure it would take very little to test the thing practically, and if the half of what Mr. Wilson said should be realized, any company undertaking it would be rewarded.

As it occurs to me it is the duty of the Government to offer to aid any who are willing to solve the problem, and to give them exceptional inducements. If they would only do so, I believe a company could be formed that would risk the test. Every mine and mine-owner should be glad of a chance to take stock in any such venture; and I am certain some of our people can be found with enough patriotism to venture a few dollars towards the possibility of giving unlimited employment and receiving increased royalties.

It seems to me that representations ought to be made to the Government and a company organized to receive any concessions from them, and to prove the existence of a second streak.

Yours truly,

PROSPECTOR.

Hugh R. Fletcher, of the Geological Survey, was in town this week. He is preparing a new map of the Pictou Coal Fields, and is extending it so as to take in Cumberland County.

The genial cashier of the Mines Office has been kept smiling during the week by the unusually large amount of money which has been paid in for licences to search for coal in Cape Breton.

The following additional returns for October have been received at the Mines Office:—

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Ozs. Gold.
Renfrew	Empress.....	130	118½
Central Rawdon.....	Gould Northup	*105	106
Malaga	McGuire.....	172	254
Montague.....	28	28
Oldham	Oldham G. Co.'s.....	172	143

*90 tons of this were surface soil.

MINERALS IN CANADA.—Mr. Eugene Coste recently published a report on the mineral production of Canada, to which we made brief reference, but to which we are now enabled to make more lengthened allusion. According to his calculations of the increase in the coal output, the increase last year over the previous one was 266,475 tons, while the total was 2,368,890 tons, against only 1,036,863 tons in 1877, an increase in the ten years of 1,332,028 tons. The figures are as follows:—

	1877. Tons.	1887. Tons.
Nova Scotia	882,863	1,871,338
British Columbia	154,000	413,360
North-West.....	nothing	73,752
Grand Lake.....	"	10,441

Total..... 1,036,863 2,368,891

In gold there has been a decrease since the mining boom of 1864 in British Columbia. The total value last year was \$1,178,637, of which \$693,709 came from British Columbia and \$413,631 from Nova Scotia. Of iron last year, 1887, Nova Scotia produced three times as much as ten years ago. The total output was worth \$1,087,728—\$76,181 from Nova Scotia, \$36,218 from Ontario, \$26,803 from Quebec, and \$56,90 from British Columbia. Amongst other products, bricks represented \$986,689 with places to hear from, petroleum \$595,868; building stone; \$552,267; lime, \$394,959; silver, \$349,330; phosphates, \$319,815 and copper \$342,346. The total value of Canada's mineral products last year was \$15,000,000, of which about one third or \$4,669,365 was exported, the remainder being consumed in the Dominion.

The remains of Captain Archibald arrived on the steamer *Nova Scotia* yesterday. The funeral will be held at Truro to-day. It is generally acknowledged that by Captain Ned's death the mining community has sustained a severe loss.

Mr. Gregg, of Boston, manager of the Eastern Development Co., has just returned from a visit to the Coxheath Copper mine, near Sydney, C. B. He brought from the mine to this city several hundred weight of copper ore, which is now on exhibition in the Mines Office. It is in the form of copper pyrites and some of the samples are almost pure ore and must contain a heavy percentage of copper.