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MINING.

STEWIACKE VALLEY.—The excitement over the gold discoveries in this locality is on the increase, the conglomerates carrying gold having been traced from Brookfield right through to Upper Stewiacke, a distance of over 16 miles. Lead and silver have been found at Pleasant Valley, near Brookfield, and W. J. Nelson and others one day last week took out prospecting license for 1500 acres. These must be to the eastward of the line of Truro township, as the minerals in that township belong to the owners of the soil.

There is great activity in mining, but nothing particularly new to report this week. The coal trade is unusually brisk, the shipments from Spring Hill since the strike being very large and the Cape Breton mines having all they can do to fill orders.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE STAFF OF THE MINES OFFICE.—Owing to suppose to the report of the Committee of mines and minerals, a synopsis of which appeared in these columns, Mr. Charles H. Carman has been transferred to the Crown Land Department, where he will in future assist Mr. Austen. Mr. Geo. Hall, a clerk in the Crown Land office, has been assigned to a position in the Mines Office, where Mr. W. H. Browne, the very efficient accountant of the department, will in addition to his former duties have charge of the outer office. A determined effort is now being made to bring the work of the department up to date. The record books of Prospecting Licenses and leases will in future be posted regularly, the maps renewed as promptly as possible, and leases issued without the unwarranted delays that in the past have caused endless grumbling and in many cases actual loss of properties. All cause of friction in the working of the department having been removed, the mining public may now be assured of having their wants speedily attended to, and that information desired will be politely and fully furnished. It will take time to introduce all the reforms mooted by the Deputy Commissioner and to get them into full working order, but supported by a zealous staff of clerks and meeting with the approval of the Commissioner, the office will eventually be run with the regularity of clockwork, and the rumblings and the grumbings against the department which were growing louder and louder will entirely cease.

The following are the gold returns so far received at the Mines Office for the month of August.

District.	Mill.	Qtz. Crushed.	Ozs. Gold.
Sherbrooke.....	Aberdeen.....	8	1
".....	Sutherland.....	50	10 1/2
".....	Miners.....	45	5 1/2
Salmon River.....	Dufferin.....	500	197
Oldham.....	Oldham G. M. Co.....	28 1/2	26 1/2
Waverly.....	Windsor Junction G. M. Co.....	95	34
*Caribou.....	D. Touquoy's Mill.....	429	60 1/2
".....	Moose River G. M. Co.....	62 1/2	13 1/2
".....	Caffrey.....	30 1/2	8
Uniacke.....	Phoenix.....	198	26 1/2
So. Uniacke.....	Withrow.....	5	7
Storrmont.....	Rockland Mill.....	29	27 1/2
Wine Harbor.....	El Dorado.....	101	49 1/2
†Central Rawdon.....	Central Rawdon.....	100	160
Montague.....	Annand.....	95	125 1/2
".....	Rose.....	9	8
†Harrigans Cove.....	New Brunswick Co.....	10	2
* 337 tons surface soil and dumps, 92 tons qtz.			
† 25 tons qtz., 75 tons surface.			
‡ 8 tons dumps, 2 tons qtz.			

THE PYRITES MINE.—Mr. Carroll receives an Encouraging Letter From Chemist Best.—The pyrites mine on the Hall farm is showing up better from day to day and the hopes of Mr. Carroll are growing higher as the work of prospecting continues. The cuts made up to the present time indicate an enormous deposit of the ore, and one which is practically inexhaustible. Mr. Carroll has been satisfied all along that the ore is very valuable, and the following letter he has just received from Mr. W. F. Bast, analytical chemist of St. John, confirms his opinion:—

J. A. CARROLL, DEAR SIR.

In compliance with your request I send the following preliminary report on your mining property, situated near St. Stephen, on the Hall farm.

Up to the present date four openings have been made and the ore reached at a depth of from four to seven feet from the surface.

Number one opening is about two hundred feet from the highway road and opposite the gateway.

Number two opening is two hundred and sixty feet south of number one.

Number three opening is between number one and number two—about sixty feet from the latter.

Number four opening is situated two hundred and fifty feet east of number one.

A bed of solid ore was reached at the depth of about six feet from the surface in each case. At the present stage of the work it is not possible to determine the boundaries of the bed of ore, but it has been proved to be two hundred and sixty feet long and two hundred and fifty feet wide. It is expedient that an effort should be made to determine the permanency of the deposit and the quality of the ore some distance below the surface.

From present indications it would appear that excavation would reveal an almost inexhaustible quantity of ore.

With regard to the composition of the ore, it is sulphuret of iron (iron pyrites,) with a considerable percentage of nickel and some gold, silver and