

MINING.—Continued.

The following are the official returns received at the Mines office for the month of May:—

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Oz. Gold.
Brookfield.....	Brookfield.....	155	189
Fifteen-Mile Stream.....	Egerton Gold Mining Co.....	80	42
Sherbrooke.....	Miners'.....	29	11
do	Goldenville ..	17	11
East Hawdon.....	Rawdon.....	280	171
Dan's Hill, Salmon River.....	The Dufferin.....	986	222

JUST ESTIMATE—Perhaps no other industry has been so misunderstood as mining, and has been compelled to bear the burden of unjust condemnation which belongs to other, altogether foreign exercises, which like parasites have fastened themselves upon it.

If a poor farmer tries to conduct business on a farm by methods altogether impracticable and contrary to the best experience of years, the failure, when it comes, falls upon the man and his lack of wisdom, instead of being made an argument against farming and the farm, but let a mine be ever so extravagantly mismanaged by the most inexperienced and dishonest superintendent, the loss of money and all the long train of disasters is charged at once to the uncertainty of mining and the worthlessness of mines.

Simple justice demands more discrimination, and we may say that, with the more general information prevalent, it will be more difficult hereafter for the mistakes, fraud and inefficiency of incompetent management to place the responsibility to the account of the mine or of mining.

Coal, iron, zinc and lead mining have passed through this phase in the history of their development, and it is time that silver and gold mining were divorced from speculative excitement, stock fluctuations and every thing outside of the line of steady productions. All must come to this point before the best results can be achieved, and before mining can be justly estimated at its true value in its influence upon the steady improvement of national prosperity and substantial advancement.—*Chicago Mining Review*.

The generally accepted statement that the largest nugget ever found in California was worth a little more than \$21,000 is an erroneous one. J. J. Finney, "Old Virginia," found a piece of gold about six miles from Downville, Sierra County, on August 21, 1866, that weighed five thousand ounces, and was worth \$90,000, the largest nugget of pure gold ever discovered, so far as accounts go. Heretofore, the Australian nugget, found in the Ballarat gold fields, has been considered the largest; it was valued at \$60,000.

SILVER NEAR DULUTH—A reported find of silver in great quantity was made public in Duluth recently. The deposits are about eight miles west of Duluth. Experts pronounce the ore similar to the Manitoba silver ore, and a quantity has been sent to St. Paul for assay. A number of capitalists have formed a company to operate the mines there if the report of the assay is as expected it will be. They will put \$1,000,000 capital into the project.

BURMESE GOLD—Samples of gold found on the banks of the Meza, a tributary of the Irrawaddy, about thirty miles from the latter river and to the westward of Katha, have been analyzed by Mr. R. Romann. One specimen was found to contain 87.66 per cent. of gold, 5.96 per cent. of silver, and a residue of copper pyrites, quartz, magnetic oxide of iron, and other matters. Another specimen contained 74.83 per cent. of gold and 2.86 per cent. of silver, together with 2.53 per cent. of platinum, 7.04 per cent. of indium, 7.08 per cent. of zirconia, and 5.66 per cent. of silica.—*Engineering*.

NEW MINE-S' LAMP—A clergyman in Yorkshire has obtained a patent for a "safety electric lamp for miners." The chief feature in the device is the interposition of wire gauze between the carbon of an incandescent lamp and the exhausted envelope of glass in which the carbon is contained, so that in case of fracture of the glass the carbon is prevented from igniting any combustible mixture of gases or coal-dust surrounding it.—*English Mechanic*.

NATURAL GAS—Long as man has been on this planet, he as yet is not aware of all that is on the earth, much less under it. Petroleum wells have a great antiquity; but it is only of late years that mineral oils have been found literally in hundreds of places. In boring for oil natural gas has been discovered. A few years ago it was considered a marvel, but to-day there are numerous holes in the earth through which gas flows in a never-ceasing stream; nor is it to be found alone in the region south-east of Lake Erie. It has been discovered at so many different points, that it is now beginning to be suspected that wherever coal is found oil and gas are not far off. Natural gas has effected a revolution in the iron trade of Western Pennsylvania. Makers of steel now dispense with coal, and save large sums by using gas, not only as an illuminant but also as a fuel. There is reason to believe that our large cities will eventually be supplied with natural gas brought in pipes from the regions where found, and which will be sold for half the price of coal gas.—*Demorest's Monthly*.

CONCENTRATES—A rich vein of gold-bearing quartz is said to have been discovered near Atlanta, Ga.

Spanish mineral exports for the first six months of 1886 amounted to 2,629,122 metric tons.

The Plymouth Con. mines, Cal., produced to January 1, 1887, gold bullion valued at \$3,068,194.69.

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For testimonials intending purchasers are referred to Messrs. Ross and Hale, Carleton Mines, Yarmouth Co., and Mr. J. A. Mannheim, Duluth Gold Mining Co., Bridgewater, N. S.; also, Mr. Theodore A. Hale and Mr. Chas. Annand, of Halifax.

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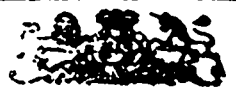
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CHAS. J. MACDONALD,

Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 20th May, 1887

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