

The profits derived from some of the asbestos mines in the Province of Quebec are simply enormous. The Johnston-Irvine mine at Thetford, which five years ago might have been purchased for \$5,000, now returns to its owners, Judge Irvine of Quebec, and Mr. Johnston, M.P., a profit of \$100,000 a year, producing as it does the finest quality of the mineral, a large proportion of which sells at from \$275 to \$300 per ton, while the method of mining it is the crudest and most elementary imaginable. There is little or no excavation before the asbestos is reached, but the veins of the fibre are blasted out of the surface rock, and workmen with hammers separate the portions of rock that adhere to the pure asbestos, which is at once sorted into the grades for shipment.

Mr. C. E. Pooley, Q.C., and D. R. Harris, of Victoria, B.C., are now *en route* to London, England. It is understood that the nature of the mission relates to the sale of the Wellington collieries, Vancouver Island, the property of the Messrs. Dunsmuir, negotiations for the purchase of which have been on the *tapis* for some weeks back. The property is a valuable one, and the sale the heaviest, and involving a larger amount of capital than any which has yet taken place in British Columbia. The sum to be paid for the property is said to be two and a half millions. The Messrs. Dunsmuir will continue to operate the Union mines in Comox—which are turning out an excellent quality of coal—and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway. These mines, the railway and the land belt are estimated to be worth in the neighborhood of fifteen millions of dollars.

A discovery that may prove of vast importance to the nickel interests of this district and to the iron industry of Ontario is claimed to have been made whereby nickel and iron can be produced by precipitation. The originators of the process were Messrs. Mond, Lang, and Quincke, the eminent metallurgists, who have obtained nickel of a high quality and purity by the action of carbonic acid upon the ores. Mr. Berthelot, the distinguished French scientist, has further advanced the discovery, and has effected a similar combination with iron. According to him, the process is not limited in its scope to any metal, and it is consequently of great value in the production of such rare metals as nickel. So far the success of the experiments has been complete, and from all appearances there is no reason to doubt that the results will be as satisfactory when applied on a commercial scale.

Mr. L. A. Hamilton, the Canadian Pacific Railway Land Commissioner, and Major Walsh of the Dominion Coal Company who accompanied General Superintendent Whyte to the Souris Coal-fields, have returned to Winnipeg. They are extremely pleased with the result of their trip, having found abundance of coal seams, and splendid well-settled farming districts adjacent to the coal-fields. Major Walsh says that tests will be made in the vicinity of Alameda with a diamond drill, and if coal is found there in suitable quantities mines will be established at that point. If not, they will go thirty miles further west, where several large seams are exposed, one of them being twelve feet and another eight feet wide. Mr. Hamilton believes that