

NEWAR'S SPECIAL LIQUEUR IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE GENTLEMAN'S WHISKY.

THE Exchange News AND COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

A SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND MINING NEWS.

Vol. 2. No 78.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 1899.

Published Daily at 4.30 p.m.

Price 3-cents

WHY SOME MINES FAIL.

An engineer of wide experience has traced the majority of failures in mining enterprise to two sources, unreasonable primary cost and subsequent mismanagement.

The Exchange News last week dealt with the first of these as shown in the case of Iron Prospects for which their owners were demanding so much that capitalists left iron mining alone. Gold prospects, according to this engineer, labor under the same disadvantage in being owned by men who demand exorbitant prices. This cause of failure is however being diminished. In several cases when with a view to purchase gold prospects were examined by competent engineers, the owners took the advice of the experts and either developed their prospect or sold it cheaper. Capt. De Lamar's representatives, for instance, told some holders of gold prospects this summer that there had not been sufficient work done to justify expert examination or expert opinion and they succeeded in getting accepted very reasonable terms to get their locations developed. Likely enough with more information given as plainly and courteously as these experts gave theirs, the majority of prospect holders would cease holding out for restrictive prices.

The second cause of failure, mismanagement is even more powerful and widespread. Ignorance on the part of the mining engineer in charge has been a fruitful source of failure. In Western Ontario Gold Fields, there are scores of shafts sunk to a depth of 40 or 100 feet and then abandoned. Now under an intelligent engineer the shaft would not have been abandoned at this stage. The law of the district is that just at these depths a zone of disturbance occurs and continues down for another 150 feet where the lost vein is picked up again with increased values. There is also ignorance and disregard of another general law that about pay chutes, viz.: that they in their highest grade of ore occur only at intervals, and not continuously. Inexperience or un-

taught mining engineers not thinking of this get discouraged and they have thus left prospects undeveloped in the Lake of the Woods, in Rainy River, in the Manitoba and in the Sawbill Lake regions. It seems however that on such fundamental laws as these two just mentioned, ignorance is giving way to knowledge and that mining developments are being fought out to a finish.

Another form of mismanagement causing failure is wastefulness. Engines instead of being kept clean are allowed to wear themselves out by friction with coal dust, instead of being kept within the limits of their power, are strained by having to do work heavier than they were intended for.

Two men or two horses are often set to do what one man or one horse could do very well. All these forms of mismanagement, and each one, can multiply their number for himself, come under the general heading of want of economy. According to the engineer whose thoughts have been summarized in the previous remarks, this kind of mismanagement is also disappearing. Men of business habits and who are good accountants are being now employed by mining companies and are working the properties on economical principles.

STRAWS.

The Bank of England rate of discount unchanged at 3½ p.c. The proportion of reserve to liability is 50.1-5 p.c. against 49.9-10 last week and 48.3-10 last year. The Bank gained £694,000 bullion on the week.

A Chicago despatch says that all grain rates east from that city have been advanced 3 cents on corn, oats and wheat, foreign and domestic. The advance rate is to go into effect Sept 18. The lake rate is also up ¼c.

Assaying or determination of sample costs on an average about 50 cents. The Provincial Assay Office, Belleville, Ont., received as fees \$130.65 last month for assaying 277 samples.

American Steel and Wire application for listing has, contrary to former Exchange News report, been accepted; \$40,000,000 cumulative 7 p.c. preferred stock has been admitted 7 p.c. preferred stock and \$50,000,000 common stock has been admitted.

Custom receipts of the Dominion for the month of August amount to \$2,631,870, a little over half a million more than the same month last year. Nearly 1-3 of this was taken at Montreal, its total collections being \$902,946.64. St. John, N. B., took \$20,000 more in custom receipts than August last year.

Canadian agricultural implement makers want more space in the Paris Exhibition for their exhibits, and through Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, are likely to get it.

The Bell Telephone Company refuses to pay the new tax on machinery, the Montreal Street Ry. Co. does not absolutely refuse, but puts a "junk" valuation on its rails, etc., and the Grand Trunk Ry. Co. objects on the ground of expense to put any valuation on its machinery at all. Evidently the assessors will have some difficulty in enforcing machinery tax collection.

Montreal's market committee have not given the contract for winter coal to C. Charland, though his quotations were 10 cents a ton less. The members of the committee will peddle the job out at the big prices.

The Bank of England rate of discount is Rumor has it that the Dominion Steel & Iron Co. will purchase from R. G. Reid & Sons, Newfoundland, another last track of mineral lands for \$8,000,000.

It is announced at Fall River that a meeting of the Manufacturers' Association will be held this week, when a committee will be appointed to visit the city and investigate the offer of Nelson G. Green about its cotton mill properties.

Canadian Pacific has decided to extend its Crow's Nest branch a distance of 25 miles, to connect with the mines of the British Columbia Copper Company.