

Gold Mining Co., is in the city with some rich samples of quartz. He says they have a three-foot lead with gold through the whole of it, and a six-foot belt of slate and leads. The quartz specimen brought up by Mr. Giffin is very rich, the precious metal showing all over it. He also has a box of gold in small pieces, picked out of the dirt by hand. He says the alluvial soil in the vicinity of the find is rich, and from every panful from 100 to 1,000 sights of gold can be made. The prospector who made the find persisted for ten years in his search, which resulted in this find. The Richardson Company are preparing to sink a shaft and build a mill. They have 126 acres, and Mr. Giffin will interview the Commissioner of Works and Mines to ascertain if the government will assist in the building of a road from the Richardson mine to Isaac's Harbor, a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

**THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTRACTING PRECIOUS METALS FROM SEA WATER.**—The presence of silver and gold in sea water has long been known, but no economical method has ever been invented for extracting them. The investigations of Mr. C. A. Munster described in the *Norsk Teknisk Tidsskrift*, and his proposed method of dealing with the matter, will be of interest: Sea water was taken from Kristiania Fjord, and 100 litres were evaporated to dryness, giving 1,830 grms. of residue. This was ground and divided into portions of 300 grms., each of which was mixed with 100 grms. of litharge, 100 grms. of pure  $\text{KNaCO}_3$ , and 4 grms. of carbon from starch, and the silver and gold determined. The result was: 19 mgrms. silver and 6 mgrms. gold per ton of average sea water. By check experiment this result was modified to a final result, the effect of which was that one ton of average sea water contains 20 mgrms. of silver and 5 mgrms. of gold per ton, worth respectively 0.06 and 0.38 of a cent.

Considering the extremely small amounts of precious metals present, the author considers that no method of precipitation in tanks can possibly be successful. He thinks that the precipitation must be effected in the sea itself, where the water is continuously renewed by a natural current. He proposes that a channel about 60 metres wide between two small islands, well sheltered from sea or wind, where there is a current of about 4 metres per minute, should be selected for the experiment, such rocky islets being common off the Norwegian coast. Across this channel 60 plates of galvanized iron, each 2 metres  $\times$  3 metres, should be arranged at an angle of  $30^\circ$  to the stream, and an electric current be sent through the series to precipitate the precious metals. The power required theoretically for this purpose he calculates at only one half h. p., and he thinks that to produce a current of such trivial potential difference in practice would only require a few horse-power, which could cheaply be obtained from water-power, wind, or even by the thermo-electric principle, utilizing the difference of temperature between the sea and the air. The large anodes required could be cheaply prepared from wood, impregnated with graphite and tar, and carbonized, high conductive power not being required for such a feeble current. If all the precious metals passing the plates were precipitated, he calculates that over \$1,500,000 would be obtained per annum, and as the working expenses would be most trivial, if only  $\frac{1}{100}$ th or even  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of this amount were obtained, it would still pay well; he therefore thinks the experiment well worth a trial.

W. Hamilton Merritt, a Canadian mining expert, states that the United States produce forty-five times as much pig iron per capita as Canada. Americans, he said, are obliged to import their best qualities of ore from Spain and Cuba, while in Ontario there are deposits quite up to the standard of either Spanish or Cuban ore.—*The Financial and Mining Record*.

**APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY IN MINES.**—The lead mine of Metternich, in Belgium, is not only lighted by electricity, but the current is utilized in all kinds of work. The daily quantity of mineral extracted is 3,000 tons, and the works operated automatically are so numerous that twenty-five men are sufficient to do all the work. One of the applications of electricity in this mine is new—at least we have not heard it spoken of until now. Each bucket that arrives at the top of the shaft makes an electrical contact, and a needle in the office makes a red line upon a band of paper, which is turned by clock movement. This arrangement allows them to keep an account of the regularity of the work, and the number of buckets registered prevents any dispute.

**THE COMMERCIAL MINING COMPANY.**—A general meeting of the shareholders of the Commercial Mining Company of Algoma (Limited) was held yesterday afternoon at their offices, 105 King street, West, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and transacting other business. There were representatives from New York, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo and the different parts of Canada. The solicitors, Messrs. Allan & Baird, presented the charter and reported that the company had been fully incorporated under the act. The Secretary's report was read. It showed the most satisfactory results of the company's operations up to the present time. Specimens of high grade ore, brought down from the mine and assayed in Toronto, returned a much higher percentage than was expected. Some offers for the ore now taken out were under consideration. It was decided to proceed with the development of the mines and not sell any of the property at present. The President reported that three fourths of the stock had been subscribed for. After some discussion it was resolved that only \$10,000 more would be sold, the balance to be held as treasury stock. The following were elected as directors for the ensuing year: F. E. Sherman, Jamestown, N. Y.; Charles Stickley, Binghamton; F. A. Brown, Boston; A. H. Hilyard, New York; J. W. Cheeseworth, Toronto; W. H. Cooper, Toronto; H. A. Hilyard, St. John, N. B.; C. A. Murrie, Toronto. At a subsequent meeting of the directors the following officers were elected; President, A. H. Hilyard, New York; Vice-President, F. E. Sherman,

Jamestown, N. Y., and Secretary-Treasurer, H. A. Hilyard, St. John, N. B. The directors, with a number of American and Canadian shareholders, will hold an excursion to the mines about the end of June.—*Empire*.

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