

The first smelting at Ferrona was made successfully at the end of the past week. The iron produced is said to be of excellent quality. The shareholders of the company inspected the various branches of the work last Thursday and express themselves gratified at the progress made.

SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA AT LONDONDERRY.—The meeting of the Nova Scotia Mining Society at Londonderry was a perfect success in every particular. The weather was delightful, the attendance of members fair, and the reception tendered by Mr. R. G. Leckie and the local committee hospitable in the extreme.

A committee of ladies provided a capital lunch, the merits of which were attested by the rapidity with which the viands disappeared, and were disappointed to find that the dinner which they had also provided for could not be partaken of by the Association, which was to hold its evening session in Truro.

It was a day of instruction, and was largely devoted to iron. Mr. R. G. Leckie's paper descriptive of the improvements introduced by him in the smelting and roasting plants was illustrated by diagrams, and was then indelibly impressed on the minds of the members by a personal inspection of the splendidly equipped and managed works. Then at the afternoon session an invaluable paper on the iron ores of Londonderry and on other deposits of iron ore in Nova Scotia, with full analyses of their chemical constituents, was read by Mr. Smaill, proving an interesting supplement to Mr. Leckie's paper.

This was followed by a paper on the Torbrook iron mines, by Mr. R. G. E. Leckie, when, after routine business, principally devoted to committee reports and the admission of new members, the meeting adjourned to Truro, and dined at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

We have space only for a brief mention of the proceedings in this issue, but will furnish a more detailed report in our next.

The following from the *Financial and Mining Record*, New York, speaks well for the Crawford mill:—The Crawford Gold Extractor, which was put into the Richmond mill at Hillsborough, Colorado, recently, has been tried and reported by the local journal to work satisfactorily. Another mill of the same kind has been ordered, and it is expected that it will be in operation within thirty days. The capacity of the mills at Hillsborough is not sufficient to treat the milling ore which the mines there are producing, and it is found necessary to restrict the production of some of them.

TORBROOK A BONANZA.—*It Teems with Rich Mineral Wealth—A Racy Description of a Big Enterprise with a Bright Future.*—The growth of an enormous iron mining industry in Western Nova Scotia is now on a question of time. Something more than the first step has been taken. At Torbrook, on the slopes of the South mountain, three and a half miles from Wilmot, grown in by a forest of pines with the sun bathed hills on the north glinting at intervals through the vista of trees, have been erected extensive plant and machinery, sufficient to cope in the meantime with a fast expanding enterprise, which owes its origin to the thriving Torbrook iron company, and something of development to the Windsor and Annapolis railway's branch that links the mines with their markets. The philosopher says "business is pleasure rightly construed." We were a party of business men under the chaperonage of R. G. Leckie, W. R. Campbell and K. Sutherland, en route to-day by the favorite "Flying Bluenose" towards the mining district, and at a convenient spot joined a train of empty flats for dispatch up to the mines, from which the cars were to return in an hour or so afterwards full of the valuable hematite iron ore. But, first, it must be a revelation to many to know that Torbrook is as charming a spot as any in the province. Below, fenced between the hills, is the fertile Annapolis valley. On every side as you near Wilmot the land is studded with orchards bearing now their load of golden and ruddy tinted fruitage in heavy profusion. By way of parenthesis, the farmers up this district, if deploring the fact that their apple crops are not this year the biggest on record, are quite content to agree smilingly that they are about a fair average. Our engine bell gives warning and we begin to pass through the depths of a pine forest. A large portion of the Torbrook branch has been built right through a thick growth of trees with heavy cuttings here and there. As the sandstone rock crops up to the surface, those geologically constituted can trace the lay of the strata with their romantic tale of old world's history. It is an old formation. The eye of retrospective science can discern the day when the marvellously fertile Annapolis valley was a bay of the sea, and its soil half loam, half sand, is full of the vestiges of creation. But a man who loves a tree for its own sake and not for its carboniferous possibilities must confess with a sigh of pleasure that the Torbrook woods are just a perfect place for a picnic. The trip is delightful enough through the land of Evangeline, and he would be foolish who would dispute old Biomidon's beauties. Torbrook has a little of everything—hill, wood and glen—and is thus unique. We are now far up the hillside, three or four hundred feet above the level of the sea. We have been feasting our æsthetic senses on the beauties of the scene, when all at once our philistine money-making interests are awakened into active life by our being rushed out of the silent depths of the trees into the heart of a busy hive of toiling men, with the hum of rapidly revolving wheels everywhere and the restless whirling of engines. Mining has been carried on in the Torbrook mine for some time, but its output has of late largely increased. It has infinite possibilities. The vein is very rich, the ore containing between fifty-five and sixty per cent of iron. In the days when probably our Indian ancestors

did not know what it was to discuss reciprocity on a hotel veranda, the South mountains had a hot time of it. It must have been a long time in the melting pot of creation. For the nose of science it smells like Scotch theology of the gridiron, hence, most likely, the purity of the Torbrook hematite and of Scotch theology. The apparatus and equipment of the Torbrook mines are of the latest type and the best that science can produce and money can buy. The first cursory glance assures the spectator that the enterprise has come to stay, and that it is already a great wealth producing factor. There are three shafts in operation, one having been sunk to the considerable depth of one hundred and fifty feet. From one yawning cavity down which whirls the never resting wire rope, is being dragged and tumbled the long procession of waiting cars of ton after ton of ore. An air compressing engine of considerable capacity supplies the power for the drills, by means of which the rock is broken up into workable fragments. From where the active mining is proceeding the vein takes a dip, due largely to the pressure of strata in the process of formation, and crops up near the surface on the mountain further up. But really no sign is wanting to the experienced eye to prove that the fields of hematite below this Eden on the hillside is alike valuable and exhaustible only after many years of working. Something over one hundred miners are busy from early morn to dewy eve, and practically the enterprise is as yet only a healthy infant awaiting a vigorous youth and mature manhood. The writer does not wish to be too sanguine, and as the clever son of R. G. Leckie, the young but already experienced engineer of the mines, explained in animated sentences what his company had done, and what was before them in the immediate future, it needed no great prophetic instinct to grasp the fact that Torbrook will enjoy a large share of wealth and prosperity. We want a few more Leckies, and a few more Campbells up and down the width and breadth of our province. It is curious how nature may supply the means of wealth ready to hand, and how, nevertheless, it may be overlooked. One of the scientific authorities of our party informed us on the way back that between Torbrook and Middleton lay rich beds of marl deposit, a most active and valuable fertilizer. The farmers in the neighborhood should give a eye to this. The marl, which is made up of the fossilized skeletons of myriad fishes of a period dating back into remote time, lies only a few feet below the surface. However, it is beyond doubt that the Annapolis valley must attract within the next few years a population that will render it the garden of the world. Four-fifths of the land yet awaits energetic tillage. Industries are starting up in many of the corners. Developments will come with vast strides. Torbrook is a big witness in evidence.—*Herald.*

THE MINERAL WEALTH OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—In a report to the Colonial Office of Newfoundland, it is stated that ores of antimony, zinc, molybdenite, manganese, chromite, nickel, hematite, rutile, gold, silver, etc., are all known to exist, with the exception of the earthy minerals and non-metallic substances there are a great variety, and in many cases an abundance of material. During the year 1890 valuable seams of coal were discovered in the vicinity of St. George's Bay. Previous to this St. George's Bay carboniferous area was generally thought to be destitute of workable coal seams, and as being occupied almost wholly by the lower measures, namely, the carboniferous limestone and millstone grit series. It is gratifying to be able to state that, upon reference of the fossil plants and samples obtained during the year to Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill University in Montreal, one of the most eminent authorities upon fossil botany in North America, he has given it as his opinion that "the specimens sent indicate a development of the coal measures not unlike that of Eastern Cape Breton, with which the beds may be connected under the gulf;" and he adds that the Government of this colony would do well "to inform the English Government of the value of the coals on the west coast and their prospective importance to Great Britain and Newfoundland, as well as to other colonies. You have," he adds, "the nearest coal to England on this side of the Atlantic." The investigation in the section of country referred to has brought to light 27 feet of coal, which is but 10 feet less than that of the North Sydney section. The analysis of this coal gives a percentage of carbon not inferior to that of Cape Breton coal.

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