

A New York engineer, Mr. F. G. Corning, is mentioned as having reported on the property, and while his report is not disclosed, the use of his name might lead the unsophisticated to suppose that he endorsed the statements in the circular, which we cannot for a moment believe. It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Corning is cognizant of this preposterous prospectus.

The statement that monthly profits of \$2,400 to \$2,700 with a ten stamp mill are unheard of is altogether false, and shows crass ignorance of Nova Scotian mines, the Golden Lode, Egerton, Oldham, Brookfield, Richardson and Oxford have shewn very much larger monthly profits.

The promoter, or broker, or author of this circular, uses very simple mathematics when he says—if 10 stamps show an annual dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ on \$400,000, all one has to do is to put up 20 stamps and then his dividend is 15%! If it is as simple as this why not put up 40 stamps at once and get your 30% dividend; then if your stock is "worth \$400,000," on a $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ basis, you will have your 30% dividend make your stock "worth" \$1,200,000. What wonderfully simple things gold mines, and dividends and—the public are!!

As a sample of the pure reasoning embodied in this circular it is stated that, since the famous "Wellington Mine" at Sherbrooke, distant 20 miles in a straight line, was worked profitably to a depth of 700 feet, therefore this "Modstock" can be profitably worked to the same depth! As well argue that Modstock may go 2,300 feet, since the Idaho in Grass Valley was worked to that depth. And to say that the *Wellington* is in the same neighborhood and "on the same range" is to state a deliberate falsehood.

The childlike simplicity and utter guilelessness of the statement, "samples (of the quartz) can be selected giving almost any assay up to \$10,000 per ton ton," is touching, and will be appreciated by our gold mining friends in Nova Scotia, few of whom, we fancy, would have any difficulty in "selecting" samples that would assay 10,000 ounces instead of dollars.

Men who put such prospectuses and circulars on the market are either knaves or dupes, and no sane person will heed their invitation to bid for "Modstock" shares, though the property is promising, and with further development will undoubtedly demonstrate its capacity to maintain dividends, but not upon such fictitious values.

Mining Education at McGill.

Mr. W. C. McDonald, of Montreal, has donated to McGill University, Montreal, the sum of \$500,000 to be used in erecting, equipping and maintaining a building for the departments of chemistry, mining and metallurgy, and a new department of architecture, yet to be formed. The basement floor will be devoted to laboratories for mining and metallurgical work, which will have an area approaching 9,000 square feet. The upper floors will contain the best series of chemical laboratories possible to build, with lecture-rooms, private offices and provision for the needs of a full architectural course.

McGill has long needed better chemical laboratories, the present ones being inadequate to accommodate more than one-third of the classes in chemistry, while the instruction in assaying has been compelled to be given in a cellar. The mining department has had nothing but a room, a blackboard and some chalk. Now that working laboratories are possible we expect to see a

full, modern and *workable* equipment of the mining and metallurgical laboratories which shall be unexcelled. Some technical schools elsewhere have made themselves laughing-stocks to practical engineers by their equipment, and the introduction of experimental and obsolete machines and German models, but we know that this mistake will not be made in the equipment of these laboratories. Mining and its allied industries are among the most important in Canada, and in no other industry are so many and rapid changes and improvements constantly taking place. It is a matter of congratulation, therefore, to our mining public that in a very short time now Canadians can receive as good a technical education at McGill in this important subject as anywhere else in the world. The thanks of the mining fraternity are due to Mr. W. C. McDonald.

EN PASSANT.

The following open letter from Mr. R. L. Bordon, Q.C., solicitor for the Respondent, to the President of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, should set at rest any misapprehension as to the security of titles to Nova Scotia mineral property which may have been created by the publication of a foolish dispatch to the *Montreal Star* and other papers:—

"At the request of your Society, conveyed to me through Mr. Drysdale, Q.C., I have much pleasure in assuring you that the recent decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council in Attorney-General vs. Reynolds has no effect or bearing whatever upon the title of any mining area in this Province except the one in dispute in that case. The paragraphs and letters expressing a contrary view which have recently appeared in the public press of this city have been written or inspired by persons who evidently have no knowledge whatever upon the subject.

"The decision of the Privy Council merely dismissed an appeal from the judgment of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia which was pronounced on the 12th of May, 1894.

"The question in dispute in that case was whether the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, after the passing of an Act abolishing licenses to work, had any jurisdiction to grant a renewal of a license to work. It was held that he had no such jurisdiction and that the right to obtain a lease had been substituted for the right to take out a license to work or to obtain a renewal thereof.

"The decision in any event could only affect applications for licenses to work or renewals thereof made subsequently to the Act of 1889 which abolished licenses to work. To remove any doubt the Legislature of this Province, by Acts passed in the years 1892 and 1893, declared in effect that any renewals granted by the Commissioner subsequently to the Act of 1889 above mentioned should be held valid unless in the meantime an action had been brought for the purpose of disputing the validity of such renewals. In other words, it was thereby enacted that all such renewals should be valid notwithstanding the statute of 1889, but that such enactment should not affect any action then pending."

Mr. E. D. Ingall, A.R.S.M., chief of the division of mineral statistics, Geological Survey, has issued his preliminary abstract of the mineral production of the Dominion during the year 1895. The figures show a total of \$22,500,000, or an increase in production amounting to \$1,600,000 over the year 1894. Doubtless when all the returns have been received these figures will be materially increased. Mr. Ingall's summary includes:—Gold, \$1,910,921; nickel, \$1,360,984; silver, \$1,158,633; copper, \$949,229; lead, \$749,966; iron, \$238,070; mercury, \$2,343; asbestos, \$368,175; chromite, \$41,301; coal, \$7,774,178; coke, \$143,047; gypsum, \$202,608; mica, \$65,000 (under estimated); graphite, \$6,510; grindstones, \$31,532; fire clay, \$3,492; natural gas, \$423,032; petroleum, \$1,201,184; pyrites, \$102,594; salt, \$180,417; soapstone, \$2,138; ochres, \$14,600; mineral water, \$111,048; phosphate, \$9,565; moulding sand, \$13,530.