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BIG IRON COMBINATION.—It is reported that an iron combination is being formed in Chicago with a view to purchasing and controlling all the iron deposits of Canada. The Central Ontario railway, with its iron interests, is to be a part of the combination, and the intention is to extend it 150 miles through the iron districts to a junction with the Canadian Pacific railway at Lake Nipissing. Senator Paine, Stevenson Burke, Erastus Wiman and other prominent capitalists, are understood to be interested in the scheme.—*Boston Commercial Reporter.*

Of course the immense iron deposits of the Maritime Provinces are not included in the operations of the above syndicate, and our esteemed contemporary is a little astray in saying "all the iron deposits in Canada." Nova Scotia has as extensive and as valuable iron deposits as exists anywhere on this continent. Their time will come yet.

RAWDON.—Work during the month of February at the Rawdon mines was very brisk, 500 tons of quartz having been taken out and run through the crusher, yielding 249 oz. of gold, equivalent in value to \$4,970. The gold mining industry is becoming an important factor in the development of Hants County. Not only is labor given constant and remunerative employment, but a surplus is left to reward the owners and managers who have had the pluck to embark in the enterprise. Mr. McNaughton's bricks are sizing up very materially, and we trust this will continue to be his good fortune for many a day to come.

MILLERSIC.—A new 40 stamp mill is just being erected here, and the quartz is being taken out for the first crushing. The main lead is six feet in width, and shows many good sights of gold. A new lead has recently been discovered, which looks first class. Yours, S. C.

A special correspondent of the Halifax "Herald" writing to that journal with respect to the deposits of iron ore in Digby Co., says:—"Three gentlemen, capitalists from Philadelphia and New York, are here with the object of ascertaining the extent and situation of the excellent iron ore, which was discovered about two years ago, by Wm. Buckley, a mining expert. Large surface deposits of this ore are within two miles of Digby town, easily accessible. Mr. Buckley, in connection with one of our townsmen, raised several hundred tons and shipped a quantity to the smelting works at Truro, with results so promising that he has induced the gentlemen referred to, to come and make a personal examination."

We are pleased to find that the mines at Moose River owned by Mr. D. Touquoy, are continuing to yield good results. This week its owner brought to town a bar of gold weighing 117 ounces, which was the outcome of crushing 100 tons of quartz.

We understand that the reports of the Commissioner and Inspector of Mines for this province, will be laid before the house next week. It is reported that both the coal and gold yields have increased, while the other minerals have remained stationary.

In 1870 there were mined in the whole State of Alabama about 10,000 tons of coal, and this year there will be mined over two million tons.

During the last twenty-one years Great Britain increased its production of pig iron from 160,000 tons in 1855 to the highest annual product 76 per cent; the United States, 456 per cent; Germany, 237 per cent; France, 64 per cent; Belgium, 64 per cent; Austro-Hungary, 151 per cent; Sweden, 53 per cent.

A PRODUCTIVE AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINE.—The Long Tunnel Gold Mining Company, of Gipps Land, Colony of Victoria, was first registered in 1863. In 1867, the present general manager, Mr. Ramsay Thompson, was appointed the engineer and superintendent of the enterprise. Underground workings by tunnel, with shafts therefrom and various levels at different depths, are very extensive, while a costly plant, of the most improved character, has been provided, including pumping machinery. The first dividend was paid in 1865 of 35 per share on 2,400 shares. Ever since December, 1869, or for seventeen years, this quartz has averaged 1 oz. 11 dwts. 17.24 grs. per ton, and at this time there is enough of similar quartz exposed to keep a 40-stamp mill running for five years. In these seventeen years the amount of quartz milled has aggregated 289,639 tons, 10 cwt's, with a yield of 459,767 oz., 8 dwts. of gold of the gross value of \$8,102,000. Out of this the shareholders have received \$4,884,000 or \$2,006 per share. Two items of heavy expenses are fuel and mine timber, which have to be brought some distance, and have involved the construction of fourteen miles of tramway amid precipitous mountains, with steel, iron and wood rails.

THE DEEPEST BORE HOLE IN THE WORLD.—A bore-hole in search of coal, said to be the deepest in existence, which the Prussian Government had commenced in the Canton of Merseburg (Saxony) after having reached a depth of 1,738 metres—therefore more than a mile—has had to be abandoned, as it had come upon porphyry rock.—*English Mechanic.*