

WANTED—STAMP MILL, BOILER, &c.—In our advertising columns will be found an enquiry for a five or ten stamp mill, engine, boiler, &c. Parties having such to dispose of would do well to communicate with "stamp mill," Critic Office, Halifax.

MONTAGU DISTRICT—In our last issue we was able to report most satisfactory progress at Montagu of the Nova Scotia gold mines Ltd. and this week we have equally encouraging news from the Symon-Kaye Syndicate which is now being operated under the management of Mr. Alfred Woodhouse F. G. S. managing director. A large amount of development work has been done, and the quartz now being crushed is yielding good returns. In future issues we hope to be able to give full particulars.

ISAAC'S HARBOR.—The Palgrave Gold Mining Co. against McMillan et al in which the plaintiffs apply for an injunction and \$2,500 damages is set down for trial on November 22nd next.

W. F. PUTNAM ARRESTED.—A Boston despatch of Nov. 12th states as follows:—President W. F. Putnam of the Granite State National Bank, Exeter, N. H., was arrested here to-day at the instance of Receiver Fuller, charged with the embezzlement of \$30,000.

The following are the official gold returns so far received at the Mines Office for the month of October:

District.	Mill.	Tons Quartz Crushed.	Oz. G.
Wine Harbor.....	McNaughton & Co	150	23
Uniacke	G. E. Dimock	40	9
Salmon River	Dufferin (Aug)	330	105
"	" (Sep)	250	80
Lake Catcha.....	Oxford	139	88
Oldham	Columbia	10	3½
Uniacke.....	McDonna'd (July, Aug, Sep)	300	139½
Sherbrooke.....	Miners' (Dump)	15	1½
"	Go'denville (Dump and qtz)	21	8½

PERSONAL.—Mr. D. Touquay has returned from his trip to the World's Fair and the Northwest. He was on the C. P. R. train that met with the serious accident in the Rockies but fortunately, none of the passengers were injured. The engine and postal car plunged into the Fraser River but the draw bar connecting with the balance of the train broke and the cars remained on the track.

Mr. H. C. Taylor, miner and prospector of Gay's River Road, who has spent some years in the great silver, lead and gold mines of Colorado, is now in the province and is prospecting in the Scraggy Lake District.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS is a medicine made from roots, bark and herbs, and is the best known remedy for dyspepsia, constipation and biliousness, and will cure all blood diseases from a common pimple to the worst scrofulous sore.

LOOKS LIKE OLD TIMES.—The past week has witnessed some revival of the old time excitement at the Mines office, the principal feature being a rush to secure areas in the Lake Catcha District. The ground covered is just north of the regular district about a quarter of a mile from the Cogswell crusher. Here some one hundred and twenty-eight areas were taken up by Augustus Colford, Isaac Bonang, I. A. Hisseler, Edward Grady and others. Manager Reid, of the Oxford, John Anderson, and Geo. A. Kenty, have also secured a number of areas. We have as yet been unable to secure particulars of the discovery but trust it will prove of value. A number of areas have been taken up at E lershouse, Gold River and Molega.

THE VICTORIA MINES.—It is expected the Dominion Coal Company will take over this property about the 20th of this month. In fact we believe the Company is under notice to that effect.—*Sydney Advocate.*

A mining expert is now at Broad Cove and operations will shortly be commenced to determine the most favorable place for sinking the shaft and working the mine.—*Haickesbury Bulletin.*

A BIG CRYSTAL MINE—If somebody should find a diamond as big as a football, his discovery would hardly be more unexpected than one which has recently been made in Utah relating to a kind of crystals, however, far less precious than diamonds. The discovery referred to is that of a deposit of selenium found near the Fremont river in a mound like elevation formed by the washing and wearing away of the clay and sand surrounding it. Selenide crystals are formed from the rare element selenium, which is related to sulphur and was discovered in 1817 in the refuse of a sulphuric acid factory by the celebrated chemist Berzelius. In its vitreous form selenium is sometimes employed for optical purposes. Many years ago little medallion portraits of Berzelius were occasionally to be seen cast in this substance which he had discovered. Selenium has been found in small quantities in native deposits, notably at Culobras, in Mexico. But hitherto the selenide crystals obtainable have been small, being "measured by inches and weighed by ounces." Now, however, they have been obtained in the Utah deposit weighing as much as 1,000 pounds. Many tons of these crystals have been taken from the mound. Some of them are 4 and even 5 feet in length, with faces 6 inches broad. One huge crystal had 19 small ones projecting from it. As far as known this unique deposit has no rival in the world.

Rely on a remedy time sanctions. Johnson's Anodyne Liniment was invented A. D. 1810.

ON ELECTRICAL COAL CUTTING.

C. OCHILTREE-MACDONALD.

Of late—that is to say since the autumn of 1891, the ingenious appliances of the southern mines have penetrated into several of the Nova Scotia collieries, and the primitive colliers have been much exercised recently over the threatened revolution of the mechanical coal cutter which is there rather aptly described as the "iron man." At request I descended one of the collieries to observe and note the efficacy of these—the "Ingersoll" machines—in the soft coal peculiar to Cape Breton, and spent some time in watching the cutter drive a heading of the same, 6'x6' dimensions. Considering the inexperienced hands into which the machine was entrusted and the physical difficulties of the "hole," the results were interesting and even valuable, but not sufficiently so to remove the insular prejudices against such innovations which there, as elsewhere, existed. Another form of cutter is, however, doing such good work as to recommend mechanical coal winners to more consideration than they have hitherto received, i.e. the electrical "Jeffreys" of which I believe there are only one or two in the British American collieries. In the autumn of 1891 this machine was put to work at the face of one of the seams of the "Gardiner" mine, Cape Breton, and has proved eminently successful as an economical coal getter. A cutting of 270 square feet was made by the two men in charge in three and a half hours. In addition, the installation supplied engine houses, bank heads and all the sundries of the colliery with light, and the operations demonstrated that in the Nova Scotia mines, electricity, as a coal getter, is efficient, even in the remotest workings of a colliery. As a test case or experiment this is important to the scientific and mining world at large. By the application of such machines under certain conditions, not only may coal be cheaply procured and reduced in cost to the ordinary consumer with dependent industries, but the incidental dangers, risks and general expenses of a large colliery must perceptibly decline. However, this is a style of coal cutting which must be certainly adopted. Personally, I am not in favor of individual collieries effecting the installation of electric plant for such purposes upon their own responsibility. This is rather a department of colliery economics in which colliery owners may effect the truest and most lasting economy by continuation and installation of a powerful plant at some central part, from which the power could radiate into the several pits. Of course this has its drawbacks, such as adjusting the proportion of power and cost which should be allotted to each mine and undoubtedly the principle of one common machine has been already tried and discarded, as in the instance of the old pumping station at Wallsend, England, to the maintenance of which the adjacent pits contributed. Moreover, as an industry, coal mining will not always bear the cost of electric installation for cutting purposes in each individual mine. The cost of dynamos, wires, and maintenance, are items which compare unfavorably with the economical steam engine, and a staff of electrical engineers is decidedly more expensive to maintain than a staff of colliery engineers. This ought to be clearly understood at this era of revolution in machines as applied to economic mining. Coal being an article of universal need is necessarily marketed at prices within the reach of the common consumer, who, as a rule is by comparison not opulent, and the realized prices frequently do not leave sufficient profit margins to reduce the application of electricity under a system of rival installation to a practical possibility. In this coal mining differs from gold mining, for as is well known, the latter industry will bear almost any outlay that is at all reasonable. Rather than any misconception upon this important item in colliery economics should attain, I would say at once that even under circumstances of a central installation of electrical plant for generative purposes—when distant from the center of application the steam engine is undoubtedly more economical—adjacent supplies of fuel provided—than electricity can ever be and for the reasons alluded to above, i.e. cost of material, maintenance, higher skilled labor, etc.

At the Mining Congress held in Montreal early this year, at which the American and Canadian mining engineers united upon the platform of scientific research if antagonistic in subjective political issues, this matter appears to have been liberally discussed and a similar conclusion arrived at, in spite of the evidence in favor of electricity then introduced. The common idea of the delegates was, that unless some adjacent and central locality for the generation of electric power could be adopted in the N. S. coal fields, there was no practical justification for such an expensive industrial revolution. They apparently and with justice proposed that the change should be effected by the slower process of evolution, and rightly believed that so long as a coal industry is as advantageously situated as that of Nova Scotia, the issue of electrical coal cutting is of subjective importance to other more vital problems peculiar to coal mining. This is exactly so. As coal industries grow old, as pits deepen and workings extend, some mechanical devices become very necessary to enable the industry of coal mining to be carried on in a profitable manner. From this point of view electricity as a coal cutter is of far greater importance to our home than Canadian mines, and it is in the former that the graduation should take place.

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