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The rental system recommended by the Inspector of Mines in his report for 1887 has been virtually adopted, and at one blow the department has rid itself of the unsatisfactory forfeiture proceedings of the old act, while it has at the same time done away with the probability of speculators holding large blocks of unworked areas, the curse of the old system. While it accomplishes this it imposes no new burdens on actual workers of properties, as the rental, exacted in advance, is refunded on proof of the required work being done. Mr. Fraser, M. P. for Guysborough, has also carried a needed amendment and one that will commend itself to prospectors. Hereafter in applications for areas, the property must be described with reasonable certainty, and not accurately by notes and bounds as formerly.

The portion of the act applying to "Mines other than gold and silver" has been radically reformed, but we note that nothing has been done to remedy the present conflict between licenses to search and leases or licenses for gold and silver. This is a most unfortunate oversight, as the department is likely to find before another session of the house. As far as they go, the amendments in regard to mines other than gold and silver are most judicious. Licenses to work have been abolished and leases, (when the amendments go into operation) may be taken out in the first instance. On all leases over one square mile, an advance fee of \$50.00 will be required payable yearly, but if the royalty paid in any one year exceeds that amount the advance will be refunded. In the case of both gold and silver leases, and leases for other minerals, failure to pay the advance fee forfeits the property. Under gold leases the advance fee is 50 cents per acre after the first payment of \$2.00.

There are other provisions in regard to coal leases, but the above is a correct synopsis of the most important features. The amendments do not take effect until two months after their passage, but for the further information of our readers we will publish the bill in full in our next issue.

The following are the official returns so far received at the Mines Office for the month of March.

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Ozs. Gold.
Sherbrooke.....	Miners.....	280	46½
Caribou.....	Moose River.....	147	47½
* ".....	Touquoy.....	*311	105½
†South Uniacke.....	Phoenix.....	250	19½
".....	Withrow.....	29	116½
Lake Catcha.....	Oxford.....	96	32
Islands Harbor.....	Palgrave Co.....	274	170½
Kempt.....	Kempt G. M. Co.....	37	37
Renfrew.....	Free Claims.....	85	77½

*110 tons surface.
†Quartz from dump.

NORTH BROOKFIELD.—The output from the Philadelphia G. M. Co.'s Mine in this district for the month ending April 8, was 256 ozs. gold from 220 tons quartz crushed.

A much larger brick would have been obtained, had it not been for the water being too heavy to admit of the main and lower slopes being worked.

The Truro Foundry Co. have the contract for the engine, boiler and plant for the mine. A test of twenty tons of ore from a new place on the property gave a net profit of 30 per cent.

The Company expect to have their mill at Chester Basin ready for business about the first of June.

MOOSE RIVER.—Mr. D. Touquoy was in town last Friday, with a handsome bar of gold weighing 98½ ounces from 180 tons quartz, and 110 tons surface stuff crushed. This was the result of work for the month of March last. The gold obtained by Mr. Touquoy is very pure, and his "gold babies" are bouncing beauties.

ARDOISE HILL.—Work is booming in this district; the Ardoise Gold Mining Company having received a ton stamp mill from the Windsor Foundry Co., while Mr. Levi D. Brown has the contract to put up a building for a 25 stamp mill for another company.

A WONDERFUL DEPOSIT OF IRON ORE.—The iron property at St. George's Bay, Newfoundland, has excited the wonder of the experts who have visited it. Last fall Doctor Stevens, mining expert from New York, inspected the property and found the visible width of the deposit to be 171 feet, the distance beyond not being ascertainable as the deposit is hidden by moss and shrubbery. The visible ore is of the purest quality, being practically free from foreign rock matter. The length of the deposit has not been determined, but it may be described as a mountain of magnetic ore of the purest quality, free from sulphur and phosphorus, and just suitable for the manufacture of steel. Analyses by Professor Pike give an average percentage of 90.3 per cent of magnetic iron. The samples were taken from the surface and the solid vein will undoubtedly give still higher results. A deep gulch cuts through this mountain of ore, exposing the lode, which can be worked on either side, in fact quarried out, at a cost of not over 20 cents a ton. From the bottom of the gulch to the top of the mountain 750 feet, thousands of tons of ore, estimated at from 300,000 to 400,000 tons are exposed, which can be mined without the aid of explosives. This magnificent deposit of ore is close to a fine harbor, with which it may be connected by a short tramway. Coal has been discovered close by, which adds immensely to the value of the property, and we are safe in predicting that in a few years St. George's Bay will be the seat of extensive steel and iron works. We understand that the property has been bonded to an American Syndicate by its fortunate owner—Mr. C. R. Bishop, who we may add is a Nova Scotian and a native of Kings.

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