Here we have both sides of the argument ably stated. Which is correct ? It should not now be difficult to arrive at the truth, as the argument has been narrowed down until it rests upon the *Transcript's* assertion that steam coal from this Province can be profitably delivered in Boston at \$2.00 per ton. If this is fallacious, then free coal would be ruinous to Nova Scotia, as the whole force of the *Transcript's* argument hinges on this contention.

CLASSICAL PROSPECTIO.--- Mooselands.--- Some year or two sgo when giving your readers some reminiscenses of the early days of gold mining I concluded an article somewhat after this manner: "It is curious that the load which produced the first gold found in the Province is yet undiscovered, but we are after it and we mean to find it."

We are still after it and now for the first time since the date of that writing we can say we are after it with a fair prospect of success. In the interval that has transpired, although there has been no oulogistic reference to the men who have refused to be daunted by unprecedented difficulties, although Messrs. Stemshorn and Murphy and others have not been patted on the back according to the usual custom elsewhere, as the men whose lifetime, energy and skill were to infuse new life into a dormant industry, yet in a quiet way and without much noise or bluster or speculative advertising, there has been done in Mosseland some phenomenally heavy prospecting in surface from fifty to seventy five feet in depth and under conditions so adverse, that had the work been accomplished in some of these new and juvenile localities where the boom is on and everything is *en galore* it would have taken columns of editorial matter and correspondence to do the subject justice.

This is the classic ground of the Nova Scotia gold miner. From Tangier, old and new, went out that fountain spring which has developed into the goodly stream of the gold industry of Nova Scotia, which for nearly thirty years has poured its golden waters into the ocean of the great world's commerce, and has had a marked effect upon three decades of our Provincial history.

The day when the Gus Lawlor lead in Mooseland is unquestionably discovered, besides being a gratifying compliment to the untiring energy and persistence of Mr. Stemshorn, and a still more gratifying fact for the directors and shareholders of the Mooseland Gold Mining Co. of Halifax; will be a red letter day in the history of Provincial Gold Mining and of interest to every one connected with it.

interest to every one connected with it. As the finding of the lead is now only a question of time, and the ultimate success of these long continued efforts is within appreciable distance, it may be interesting to trace succinctly the steps that have led up to this gratifying result.

The properties now united under the ownership of the Mooseland Gold Mining Company, Ltd., originally comprised three separate ranges of property; the north range owned by myself and others, the centre range owned by Mr. Stemshorn and others, and the south range owned conjointly by Mr. Stemshorn, Messrs. M. S. Brown & Co., Mr. Murphy and myself.

The first operations were on the South range, and included an unsuccessful attempt to lower the level of the Tangier River. Operations were then carried on on the North range, a large amount of money being expended and very considerable preparatory work done, when the failure of some of the owners to pay up caused a cessation of the work. The Central block was next attacked, and by going far East where the surface was light the presence of a belt of very large leads, was determined, and it was in the attempt to locate this belt near the river and within what is considered the rich zone that the difficult prospecting was encountered. Fifty to seventyfive feet of surface, largely a running quicksand, is no funny ground to sink ahafts and drive bed rock tunnels in, but this was what was successfully accompliahed under the supervision of John Murphy in the one case, and Jonothan Irving and Billy Scott in the other.

These various operations having demonstrated the necessity for greater resources than were at the command of the parlies in interest, the various properties were all amalgamated, and the Mooseland Gold Mining Co., Ltd, was formed for the purpose of their development.

The organization of the Company occurred too late in the season to admit of the lowering of the river till next year. Mr. Stemshorn, under whose vigorous management the work is being prosecuted, was therefore compelled to try the expedient of prespecting in the swamp as it is, with a very doubtful prospect of seeing any bed rock this winter. He has funceeded beyond our expectations, and has not only reached bed rock, but obtained such indications as point to the discovery of the Gus. Lawlor lead at a very much earlier date than we had any anticipation of.

There is now therefore a fair prospect of the opening up of another reat a very much earlier date than we had any anticipation of. There is now therefore a fair prospect of the opening up of another reat mine in this province, and as the uncanny element has been tradually eliminated and the property is all in the hands of honest squaredealing Nova Scotians, who are completely in accord as to methods and have confidence in each other, there is also a reasonable prospect, should our anticipations as to the value of the mine be realized, that both in regard to its initial construction and its permanent working, it will partake more of the character of a legitimate mining venture and less of that of a stock gambling operation than has been the case in so many instances, and will thus be a credit to its promotors and a decided gain to the gold mining industry. J. II. Townsend.





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