

## MINING.

Mineral samples sent to the Critic office, accompanied by a fee of one dollar, will be submitted to a thoroughly competent assayer for a preliminary examination and slight test of contents. The results will be communicated to senders of samples, and if full assays are deemed advisable, they will be notified and instructed as to amount of fees to be remitted.

Gold mining in this Province just at present is being steadily and quietly conducted, and there is nothing particularly new to report. At Montagu the work on the Symon Kaye property is being pushed, and the crusher for the Salisbury Company should soon be ready to be placed in position by Mr. Nisson. In other districts nothing out of the ordinary is transpiring, the week proving quite an uneventful one.

The amended mining act gave additional power to the Department of Mines to compel mill owners to make the regular monthly returns required by statute, but its provisions are not being properly enforced, and some mill owners still continue to send in returns as it suits their convenience. This is unfair to the mill owners who do comply with the act and should be remedied at once.

Doctor L. D. Ross, of Montreal, who has been in London for about a year on mining business, arrived in Halifax on Saturday last by the *Vancouver* and is stopping at the Queen. He is interested in both the Nova Scotia Gold Mines, Ltd., and the Symon-Kaye Syndicate.

**TRURO GOLD MINING COMPANY.**—The prospectus of the Truro Gold Mining company has been issued. The capital stock is \$30,000, divided into 30,000 shares of \$1 each. The mine consists of 101 acres of class number one, covers 90 acres of ground, and is situated at Cariboo, Halifax county. The property is said to be a very valuable one. Work was commenced by sinking a shaft for the lake lode, which was struck, and at a depth of about 70 feet the paystreak was found showing considerable free gold. The first crushing from the paystreak was 28 tons, which yielded 165 oz. 2 dwt. of smelted gold. At a lower depth the next lot showed a most encouraging increase, the yield being 272.50 oz. from 22 tons of quartz, which showed a value by the official mint return of \$5,091.41. The total expense of mining and milling this lot of quartz did not exceed \$700.

The Crawford Mill is now running at Waverly and Capt. Geo. Macduff, the agent, would be only too pleased to explain its merits to visitors. Sample lots of ore will be treated free of charge.

The *Canadian Mining Review* in its November issue accuses the mining editor of the *Critic* of inconsistency, and quotes a number of our statements made during the past few years to prove its point. In its usual dishonest fashion it separates sentences from articles, and this gives a different meaning to that intended. In regard to L. L. Wadsworth of the Lake Lode Company we still maintain that he was a capable and shrewd business man of undoubted integrity. Also that he managed the mine to the complete satisfaction of his directors as expressed to us at the time the article commending Mr. Wadsworth was written. Would-be purchasers arrived on the scene, and while negotiating for a sale of the property the mine was shut down. One thing and another delayed the purchase until in the end the mine was attached by the creditors and sold by sheriff's sale to the present owners. We have never heard a word breathed against Mr. Wadsworth as a business man, and it was as such he was given charge of the mine, and not on account of his mining knowledge. We have the kindest of feelings towards him, and regret that he failed in selling the mine, as he was connected with business men who would have invested heavily in the country had the first venture proved a success. He evidently acted under orders, secured the best mining talent available to work the mine, and conducted the business to suit his superiors, but nevertheless we think they made a mistake in not employing a competent mining engineer to manage their mine. In giving expression to this feeling we were guilty of no inconsistency, as we never had commended Mr. Wadsworth for his mining ability. The other points touched on by the *Review* only go to prove the uncertainty of gold mining. We give the latest and most reliable mining news that can be secured. A gold mine this year may be paying handsomely next year it may collapse. The brightest prospects may prove delusive under the test of actual work, but if there was no dishonesty in the inducements held out, and if these were advanced by men of good standing in the mining business, we feel in no way culpable in having as a matter of news given expression to their views. All that we can honestly do to advance the mining interests of the Province we have done and shall continue to do, but we do not pose as authorities on mining matters, and make no pretence to do more than lay before the public the mining news of the day.

The Nova Scotia correspondent of the *Canadian Mining Review* can not be accused of inconsistency in his treatment of our gold mining interests. Month in and month out there is the same sneer at everything not controlled by a certain clique, who wish to rule or ruin our gold mines, and drive foreign capital from our shores unless it passes through their hands. They imagine, misguided upstarts, that they can corner the gold industry here, and make it impossible for any one to sell a mine unless they are consulted. Instead of being gratified at the success that has rewarded their mining operations here, by which they have been raised from poverty and obscurity to notoriety and wealth, they now turn their whole attention to belittling our gold resources with the evident object of securing the rich plums for themselves. The most dyspeptic of this clique has evidently been selected by the *Review* as its correspondent, and given *carte blanche* to vent his venomous spleen through its columns. As a result the gold mining news

from Nova Scotia teems with mis-statements, many of them of a libellous nature, but the hard working miners who are wronged do not see the attacks, and immunity from deserved punishment has emboldened the correspondent to renewed onslaughts.

Finally, in the interests of fair play, we called attention to some of the most glaring of the mis-statements made by the *Review's* correspondent. They were inexcusable and clearly malicious, and when pointed out to the *Review* should have been apologised for. Instead our warning was unnoticed, but that it cut deeply is now made evident by the attack on us in the last issue of the *Review*. In our former controversies with the *Review* we have been met with deliberate mis-statements of our position and garbled extracts from our articles. Dishonest journalists are not likely to promote honest mining, and a sheet that has turned all its efforts to become the organ of different mining societies is not likely to have much independence, or to have aims that soar above sordid considerations.

**AN ENGLISH VANNER.**—The first English designed vanner is being placed on the market by Bowes-Scott & Western, London. It does not differ in principle from the Frue vanner, but it is made mostly of metal and hardy any wood is used in its construction. It is made in pieces small enough to be transported on mules and can be erected without much skilled labor.

**CHINESE LABOR IN BELGIUM.**—Chinese labor is being introduced into the iron and steel works of the Société Cockerill, at Seraing, Belgium. Twelve have recently been given employment there, six at the rail mills and six at the Bessemer steel foundry. Others have been employed a year or more at the blast furnaces.

The enormous number of mining companies that have lately been floated point many a moral and emphasize many a tale of wrong and disaster. The injury done to individual speculators who have sustained losses has had a prejudicial effect upon the mining industry as a whole by converting many mining investors into bitter scoffers, who now only shower anathemas upon an industry to which they previously devoted their gold. That matters connected with the mining industry are considerably out of joint has frequently been pointed out, and the necessity for reform in the law relating to the flotation of mining companies is apparently quite as pressing as in the matter of the conditions under which the actual work of mining has to be carried on. The point which is specifically in mind at the moment is that of making some provisions which will insure the appropriation of a substantial percentage of the money subscribed by shareholders to the real work of mining. As matters now stand, too much of the money extracted from the pockets of the investing public is passed over to and retained by the few fortunate people who happen to get in "on the ground floor," and too little is devoted to the purpose for which the various companies are ostensibly floated. There is no objection to the original owners and vendors of a mining property securing a good price for that which they are handing over to a company, but let their reward be dependent upon the ultimate success of the company. It is too often the case of scuttling out as soon as the property is out of hand, and one would like to see legislation framed with the object of putting a stop to the wild-cat company morgering that has in the past proved so profitable to a few unscrupulous harpies, and so injurious to the mining industry itself. This legislation should take the form of a special provision that the cash paid for shares should be spent in the development of the property floated. This would at any rate do something to minimize the evil, and would insure a fair trial for many a property which would otherwise be relinquished for want of funds when success was almost within grasp.—*Black Diamond*.

**ONYX MINING IN MEXICO.**—The quarries for the most part are situated within a radius of from 25 to 40 miles from the city of Puebla, and the finer sorts of the onyx are in that city worked up into ornaments of various kinds and of exceeding beauty. Some eleven or twelve establishments in Puebla are now so fully engaged in manufacturing these ornaments. Being desirous of personally inspecting some onyx quarries a correspondent of the *American Trader* recently visited the Tepeaca quarries. The onyx used in the auditorium of Chicago was taken from these quarries, the stone took a prize at the late Paris Exhibition. The distance from Tepeaca to the nearest quarry is about three miles, but the onyx is found in, perhaps, upwards of a score of places on a hill named Santiago Acatlan, some ten miles in length. The color of the stone ranges from pure white to practically black. Rose color specimens, which we picked up, seemed to be the most valuable kind, but a l appeared good, while the quantity in sight is great. Quarrying for onyx is proceeded with in the ordinary way by means of basting. From the time sheets presented by the administrator of the quarries, we ascertained the following particulars as to the wages paid for quarrying. The quarrymen get 75 cents per cubic foot raised and roughly cubed, while the peons get 37 cents per day. The blocks of onyx are sawn in the shops and are polished on stone, acids being afterward employed to complete the process. Prices vary very much, according to the color of the stone. Some specimens realize as much as \$18 a cubic foot. Good onyx will fetch in New York about \$40 a ton. The cost of freight from Puebla to New York is about \$12 a ton, but the cost depends somewhat upon the size of the blocks. To illustrate this we may mention that the Ward Steamship Line quotes as under for freights of onyx from Vera Cruz to New York. For blocks weighing less than two tons, \$6 per ton; from two to three tons, \$10; from three to four tons, \$15; from four to five tons, \$20. The difficulty in handling large blocks, is, of course, the cause of the freightage of large blocks being higher than that of small ones.