

MINING.

Mrs. Howe, who is now spending a few months in Chelsea, Mass., is so far the only lady miner in this Province. She was the first discoverer of the famous Whiteburn gold field. The areas now being worked by Mrs. Howe are situated at Freeman's Point, Lake Rossignol, Queens County.

The attention of persons requiring an engine and boiler suitable for a small mine, is directed to the advertisement of Mr. B. G. Gray, which appears in another column.

COXHEATH.—Having visited the Coxheath Copper Mine, C. B., and carefully noted the development of that property, we feel sanguine of its ultimate success. The opinions expressed by us in these columns several months since, with reference to the value of the copper deposits at the Coxheath mine, have been fully borne out, and it is now admitted on all sides that a first-class smelting establishment should be erected on Sydney harbor. The reasons that induced us thus early to express our views upon the mining and smelting of copper ore in Cape Breton need not be reiterated, suffice it to say that abundance of excellent grade ore, cheap labor and cheap fuel were the chief considerations to which we endeavored to direct the attention of intending investors. We have since our visit to Cape Breton inspected specimens of copper ore from the Coxheath mine, now on exhibition in this city, and are pleased to corroborate the opinions expressed by mining experts to us, that the quality of the ore is in every respect satisfactory. Mr. Gregg, manager for the Eastern Development Co., who own the mine, brings with him both recommendations and experience. From our knowledge of his energy and practical acquaintance with his work, we should say his project is neither a chimera nor a fraudulent scheme.

WALTON.—It was at first supposed that the manganese deposits, owned by the Messrs. Churchill, in this district, were limited in quantity, but recent operations have demonstrated the fact that in addition to the first pocket discovered are several others of a like size, with a much larger deposit which will require pumping gear to work successfully. The subscribers to *The Critic* in Walton are glad to receive it at the week's end.

OLDHAM.—Dear Mr. Editor,—A few brief notices referring to this gold district having appeared in *The Critic*, I deem it essential that some further facts respecting this extensive field should be given to the public. Some mining theorists have insisted that the gold streaks in Oldham were shallow, but the theory is erroneous, as there are now six shafts in Oldham sunk to a depth of 300 feet, which are on the Mayflower, Sterling, Barrel, Boston, Oldham and Donaldson lodes, extending one mile and a half from the most easterly opening. These lodes all contained gold in paying quantities, but were abandoned on account of water. The gold area is known to extend for at least three miles on the course of the leads, with an average breadth of one mile, but over this extensive area the work has been for the most part of a superficial character, the shafts and openings having a depth of from 10 to 100 feet, the average depth being 80 feet. This partial working of the mines is due to the system of tributing, as those who work the properties are not in a position to put in the proper machinery and are obliged to quit operations when the returns fail to pay wages. The abandoned lodes have an unsightly appearance, and capitalists hesitate to invest their money in deserted mines. In the fall of 1883 Donaldson Bros. and Reeves found the eastern end of the Dunbrack lode on the Tucker and St. Andrew's properties, in the search for which other unsuccessful prospectors had expended hundreds of dollars. Donaldson Bros. and Reeves spent over \$1,000 in sinking shafts, but the immediate gold return not being sufficient to meet expenses they were obliged to abandon the work. Subsequently Mr. E. C. McDonnell purchased the Tucker and Mr. J. A. Hardman the St. Andrew properties, which have since paid well. Hardman is driving a tunnel from the 160 feet level and is now 189 feet in on the vein, which averages fully 12 inches, and yields from 3 to 10 ounces per ton. The general opinion is that this streak will continue to the Black Brook, a distance of half a mile from the present workings. The McDonnell main shaft, at a depth of 200 feet, shows a vein of quartz that it is supposed will yield 10 ounces per ton. He has given up sinking as he could not control the water by horse-power, and is erecting buildings preparatory to putting in an engine of 20 horse power, with complete pumping and hoisting gear. The principal gold now taken out of Oldham is from these two mines, and it will exceed any one year's return since the first discovery of gold in this district. There are a number of veins in these mines that were and are richer, throughout the 100 feet they were worked, than the Dunbrack, and only await a judicious expenditure of capital to insure like results, and veins and belts of slate from 2 to 5 feet wide that will yield from 2 to 7 dwts. per ton from the surface, and would pay by having a cheap method of treatment, as they carry the safe indications, such as Blende Galena, sulphates of iron and copper, &c. The present outlook indicates an era of prosperity for Oldham, with its numerous undeveloped lodes, which will require years of persistent effort to work out.

TAM.

To the Editor of the Critic:

(Concluded.)

Sir,—A frequent cause of objection urged by capitalists against investing in mining property in Nova Scotia is that the gold in the ledge does not extend beyond what is known as the first streak, and that our mines are shallow and spotty. This streak experience has been shown to be limited to a depth of about 300 feet from the surface. No explorations in this province have extended beyond that depth from the surface. It follows there-

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