

will result from the conclusion of the Reid Railway Contract."

Trade prospects in the ancient colony are said to be increasing monthly. It is proposed by the Government to reduce the public debt by means of the million dollars received from the railway purchase.

The new tariff is regarded as decidedly protective, every local industry being assisted. The duties on raw material, tea, sugar and fishermen's necessaries of life are reduced, while the duties on spirits, tobacco and manufactured goods are increased.

We commented upon the extent and importance of the Reid Railway contract in our last issue, and we note that its comprehensive character and full significance is now receiving all the attention so enormous an undertaking deserves.

We feel confident that Mr. Reid will succeed in developing the resources of Newfoundland, and, being an upright and honorable man, he can be depended upon to fulfil all his engagements with the ancient colony now, we hope, entering upon a new lease of life.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax, N.S., March 10.—"It is reported that Ottawa and Montreal capitalists, who some time ago bonded gold areas at Whycomagh, C.B., which are claimed to be proving immensely rich, will send the famous Alaskan explorer, Ogilvie, to Cape Breton to report on the mineral fields there. Dr. Gilpin, inspector of Nova Scotia mines, has sent to the Provincial Government a report on the result of his recent official trip to Whycomagh. He thinks the gold discoveries are very valuable, but does not go into minute details. A tunnel has been driven into a mountain where rich deposits exist. At the entrance to this the mines' inspector encountered an armed man on guard, and had considerable trouble in overcoming his objections to the inspector entering. Dr. Gilpin found very rich quartz near the entrance to this tunnel. He also found free gold in sand taken from the bed of the Whycomagh river."

In our last number we took occasion to refer to Nova Scotia mines and the Province in general as being too-little-talked-about.

But the publication of a few more items such as the above (telegraphed from Halifax just a week ago) will perhaps result in turning disappointed mineral hunters from the Yukon into the neglected gold fields of Nova Scotia.

If any of our readers entertain doubts as to the existence of gold in immense quantities in Nova Scotia, we are prepared to prove to them that several of the mines in that Province are paying regular and very handsome dividends, and that some abandoned properties have recently been re-opened and are being worked to advantage. The recent acquisition of the celebrated Dufferin Gold Mine by Montreal capitalists is the result of proper and judicious advertising of that property and is a good sign.

The story that comes to us from Whycomagh (pronounced Hoo-go-ma), no one familiar with the district will venture to question. The island of Cape

Breton is one vast bed of minerals, and, if men and money could be found to thoroughly explore the country, we believe it would result in the discovery of enormous deposits of gold. Nova Scotia must, in the immediate future, attract capitalists. Hitherto, the people of the Province have appeared to be quite indifferent to the hidden treasures of the land they live in. It has been known to the enterprising few that gold could be obtained by the expenditure of time and money, and some mines have been opened and successfully operated. But the formation of powerful companies and the introduction of modern machinery and up-to-date mining methods are necessary to revolutionize gold-mining in Nova Scotia and make known to the world the riches of a wonderful Province.

One of the most successful Nova Scotia mines now being worked is a seam of low grade ore, from which the lucky few who control it obtain monthly about \$5,000 worth of the precious metal. The dividends paid by this Company vary from 1-2 to 2 per cent. a month. There are several rich mines in the near neighborhood of Halifax, from which quartz of unusual richness was shewn at the meeting of the Mining Institute in Montreal last year. But the strangest story of Nova Scotia gold mining is the re-opening of a mine at Hurricane Point. When fully equipped, work was stopped and the mine flooded pending a decision at law over the ownership of the property. The litigation extended over so many years that the rich prospects of the mine had been almost forgotten except by those interested, and were regarded as a romance by those who knew of the flooded shaft, but not of its riches.

At the close of last year a decision of the Courts permitted the pumping out of the Hurricane Point Mine; a strong Company was formed, and the result of some eighteen days of work produced about \$10,000 worth of gold.

We have not been asked to boom Nova Scotia. But, it seems to us, 'tis a pity her people have not made more of an effort to draw attention to the resources of the country. Surely, if the money and enterprise to develop the mines cannot be found in the district where these riches abound, it would be good policy to encourage the investment of capital from Montreal and other cities of the Dominion.

It is not necessary to send Mr. Ogilvie to Cape Breton to report on what is known to be there. All that is needed is capital and experienced miners, and the present time would seem to be Nova Scotia's opportunity to secure both. But she must permit strangers to know of her riches, and not employ armed men to keep enquirers at bay; she must be ready to exhibit herself upon all occasions, and not be too greedy when chance throws in her way bidders for her mines.

That Nova Scotia has been too-little-talked-about is largely the fault of her own people. Are they too modest, or only fearful that strangers will spy out the land of promise.