

The Canadian Mining Review

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The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.

Visitors from the mining districts, as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands, are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

All matter for publication in the REVIEW should be received at the office not later than the 17th of the month.

Address all correspondence, &c., to the Publishers of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, Ottawa.

Advertising Space.

The circulation of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, which has steadily been going up since its first publication, more than five years ago, has now more than doubled the estimate upon which we had reckoned, and its value as an advertising medium to business men who wish to reach the best classes of mine owners and operators, and the mining centres and camps of every province in the Dominion, is consequently very greatly enhanced. The REVIEW is in the widest sense a Canadian journal belonging to all provinces alike; it is the only journal published in Canada wholly devoted to the interests of her mining industries and mineral resources. We would simply draw the attention of those who have hitherto overlooked it, to this matter, promising our best attention and most reasonable terms on any application for advertising space.

Mining Engineers and their Responsibilities.

The grave want of common carefulness, worse still, the gross carelessness and in some instances even unscrupulous lying that is sometimes to be found in publications and reports circulated in connection with contemplated mining enterprises has been strongly deprecated in these columns. It is not the practice of vendors of mining properties to under-estimate the value of their possessions when seeking to attract the pockets of capitalists; and this is all the more reason why extra care and precaution should be taken by our mining engineers of repute, to whom is entrusted the examination of and reporting on mining properties, or the responsible task of verifying or otherwise the generally exaggerated statements made by or on behalf of the vendors.

This is very well pointed out in a recent issue of an English contemporary, which says:—

“Events which have occurred in connection with recent attempts to float rather pretentious mining undertakings afford the most complete evidence that if this legitimate class of industrial enterprise is to retain its favour with British capitalists some more reliable system must be adopted to ensure greater correctness in the reports published in prospectuses which set forth the value of a property and its probable return. The experts, so called, who are employed to place an approximate value upon mining property have, undoubtedly, a difficult task to perform, and we, who are acquainted with gentlemen of vast mining acquirements and experience in all parts of the world, are aware how earnestly many labour to discharge their duties in the face of many difficulties, and often of many temptations. It is true that many a man, however exact and conscientious he may be, may fall into error, and in such a case every allowance must be made; and generally is made, for any consequences which may result from lack of discretion. But recently a practice has crept in in connection with the examination of and reporting on mines, which is in every way reprehensible, not to use a stronger word. Recent events have shewn that almost culpable negligence or carelessness of the grossest kind has been displayed by mining engineers in connection with mining properties on which they have furnished reports. Examinations of the properties, if they have been made at all, seem to have been made in the most superficial and perfunctory manner. In all cases an investor, to whatever kind of undertaking he inclines, must largely rely on the judgment of others regarding the value and probable prospects of any particular property; but if this be so in regard to almost every kind of industrial undertaking, still more is it so in regard to a mining enterprise, because not only are the properties, as a rule, situated a long way off, but the whole details of management are of so intricate and technical a nature that entire reliance must be placed on those who are, or who profess to be, experts in these matters. Those who are interested in mining and who believe as we do, that it is a legitimate and often enormously profitable means of employing money, should insist that any laxity in connection with the all-important point of thorough initial investigation of mining properties, will be held to entail grave responsibilities on the part of those who profess to speak authoritatively, on that which they barely know little or nothing.”

The history of several Canadian mining enterprises points out in no unmistakable manner how lamentable has been the loss of capital for lack of that careful preliminary inspection and investigation which should be made into the capabilities of every mining property before the public are invited to invest their capital.

A Commendable Enterprise.

Mr. Kamper, who was recently in Ottawa negotiating for the purchase of the Inter-Colonial Railway to a German Syndicate, states that a part of the contemplated scheme is to open up and operate immense iron works at or near Pictou. He says:—

“Our company has already spent some money in having an examination and report made of the iron resources in Nova Scotia by a staff of German engineers, and their report was so flattering that the company decided to open up immense iron and smelting works near Pictou, provided the Canadian Government would give us protection for a certain number of years to enable us to cope with American and European iron manufacturers. If this protection can be obtained we will at once commence the construction of immense works near Pictou, and will immediately bring out from Germany 1,000 skilled iron workers to introduce the German methods of working iron in Canada. We have also a very high opinion of the great mineral resources of Nova Scotia, and are satisfied that if worked according to German methods, and with sufficient capital, they would turn out results that would astonish Canadians.”

The Government will no doubt see to it that these experienced Germans get every encouragement within reasonable limits. Their enterprise, if carried through to a successful issue, cannot fail to build up, on a modern and

practical basis, our iron industry in the Maritime Province.

We note that the Hon. Mr. Mowat has gone to England. While there the Ontario premier might make a careful study of British mining laws to the advantage of his Commissioner of Lands and Forests. A reservation of Ontario's mineral resources for the benefit of the mining community is badly wanted at present. Unfortunately as matters exist too much provision is made for speculators, farmers, cattle dealers and other slaughterers of the mining industry.

The following official figures are given to indicate the quantity of Anthracite and Bituminous coal shipped to Canada from the United States during the past fiscal year:—

ANTHRACITE.		Net Tons.
Ontario.....	666,785	
Quebec.....	274,232	
Nova Scotia.....	23,248	
New Brunswick.....	49,443	
Manitoba.....	4,540	
British Columbia.....	68	
Prince Edward Island.....	1,587	
Total.....	1,019,898	
BITUMINOUS.		
Ontario.....	829,174	
Quebec.....	94,809	
Nova Scotia.....	1,486	
New Brunswick.....	4,813	
Total.....	930,282	
(nearly all to Ontario).....	10,416	
Coke dust.....	36,220	

The Sudbury Copper Mines.

In an interview with Dr. R. Bell, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey, we gathered the following interesting notes on the above mines. Dr. Bell said in substance: Any information which I can give refers principally to the condition of these mines in January last, when I paid them a short visit, for although I was again at Sudbury in the end of May, I did not then re-examine the works. A considerable village is springing up at Sudbury, which is favourably situated at the junction of the Algoma branch with the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Two places are being worked—one called the Copper Cliff Mine, five miles south-south-west of the village, and the other, called Stobie Mine, four miles north of it. At the first of them the ore was found in the face of a cliff of diorite forty or fifty feet high, and the deposit had been worked from the base of the cliff to a depth of forty or fifty feet, giving a total of eighty or ninety feet at the time of my visit. The shaft or elongated pit showed a vein of solid copper pyrites ten feet or more in width. Splendid masses of yellow pyrites were being taken out. A large quantity of ore was piled up for spauling previous to shipment. A spur track from the Algoma branch has been built to the very mouth of the shaft, so that there is every facility for sending off the ore. Mr. L. H. Ashmun, the general superintendent of the mines, informed me that before winter set in they had shipped some sixty-seven car loads, or between 3,000 and 4,000 tons from this mine to the smelting works at Bergin Point, near New York. Some of it contained as much as 18 per cent. of copper. The percentage of any particular lot depended on the care and labour which had been bestowed on dressing it up by