

A correspondent at Burton writes to the Digby Courier:—"Messrs. Shaw & MacCallum have started a plumbago mine here, and have just gone far enough to find a barrel or two of the best quality. The people are making fine lead pencils of the same in which it is hard to discern the color, in writing, between the regular manufactured ones. Like every other place in Nova Scotia, when a man or men tries to benefit the country, instead of giving him a lift, they try to pull him down. Now if this was an American firm, how willing the capitalists here would be to invest their money, making it a perfect success for the people, and also building the place up. It is not only firmly believed by everybody, but is proved to a certainty that there is a large deposit there, and to think that such enterprising men should have to suspend work on account of a few dollars, is rather amazing."

The Neptune Mining Co.'s new mill at Chester Basin was set in motion on the sixth June, and has given good satisfaction ever since. The main shaft has now obtained a depth of 112 feet and the company purpose sinking it to the 200 foot level without delay. The lode averages 20 inches in thickness and seems to be increasing in richness as depth is obtained. Persons well able to pass an opinion state that the prospects of this mine are very encouraging."—*Lunenburg Progress*

La Societe Canadienne d'Etudes Minières, with \$100,000 capital, is applying for incorporation for the purpose of developing the mines of the Province of Quebec. Most of the incorporators are of Montreal.

The Colchester Mining Company, capital \$50,000, has been organized, and will at once commence operations for the development of their property. Their coal areas are situated at North River, and about nine miles from Truro. An expert has recently visited the locality and pronounced very favorably on the outlook.

AMALGAMATION.

By B. C. WILSON, PRESIDENT OF GOLD MINERS' ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

From Canadian Mining Review. Concluded.

As before stated their efficiency depends altogether in getting just the right adjustment proportionate to the fall and the amount of water used, which is simply a matter of experimental testing and requiring a little patience.

Now all this applies strictly to the copper plates, after them may follow all the other devices desired, but it will be found that their occupation will be gone to a large extent.

There has been, and I suppose always will be, some loss of mercury through being floured and otherwise, but I am led to believe there are erroneous ideas abroad in regard to floured mercury and what it really is. Technically it is mercury divided into such minute particles that individually they are not visible to the unassisted eye. It is only when a number of them are together that they are readily visible as a white film along the edge of the pan, and I am of the opinion that the actual preventable loss from this source is very small, and the gold carried with it still less; but there is a very appreciable loss of mercury in most mills in particles or little globules readily visible, one of which will contain as much mercury as twenty or a hundred of the floured kind. These all carry more or less gold, and it is to the saving of these that the trough in the plates before described will be found particularly applicable—gravity naturally keeps them near the bottom that is next the plate, and when impinged by the current against the clean surface of mercury in the troughs a majority of them will be arrested, while if allowed to fall into boxes or receptacles of mercury, more or less covered with heavy sulphurates and with an accumulated force of water, but very few of them are retained.

In the falling of the pulp from the mortars to the plates and from one plate to another, that is the "splash," more care to have the same uniform, and occasionally the distribution changed or distributed, should be exercised than is sometimes given it. It often happens from the wearing down of a die or a shoe or some variation in drop of one stamp in a mortar that a greater quantity of water and crushed material is thrown out on one part of the plate than another, with the result that the accumulated amalgam is worn off the plate in one particular spot, even the electro-deposited silver I have seen so worn off, and the red copper showing up destitute of any amalgam or quicksilver, and my experience is that amalgam as worn off from any particular part of the plate, is more difficult to save than new amalgam falling from the stamps. Sometimes a wire screen or perforated sheet iron is interposed in the fall from plate to plate, the flow is thus broken and the distribution accomplished; but for greater security where such are used it is desirable that they be arranged so that a slight change if only one eighth of an inch can be made every hour.

In all the foregoing I have referred exclusively to the amalgamation and arresting of the free gold after it has been liberated from the matrix. That much gold still remains in the crushed ore in the shape of gold both mechanically and chemically combined, and which is run off and lost, is, I think, a fact patent to all. This is more a question of concentration and after treatment than of amalgamation, and is one which should engage the earnest attention of every one interested in the gold industries of the Province, but in the meantime it is important to give every attention to the perfection of such processes as we have in use and to general mill treatment. Too much honest and legitimate attention by the responsible man in the mill cannot be given to his amalgamation processes, whatever their form, and to seeing that the crushing machinery is performing its duty properly and uniformly, for no irregularity can exist without affecting the whole matter of crushing, amalgamating, and retaining the gold.

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