

From the editorial in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, which we re-publish, a very correct idea may be formed of the effect abroad of the legislation of last session increasing the coal royalty upon the mining industry of the Province. Only those who have attempted to float mines know how small a matter will drive capitalists away from the most promising venture. Such a warning as the *Engineering and Mining Journal* gives against investing in this Province will do incalculable harm, as it clearly points out that lessees are entirely at the mercy of the Government, which has very pointedly shown that it has the power to increase the royalty on coal, and of course on other minerals, at will. Premier Fielding in an official memorandum attached to the prospectus, asking tenders for the loan of £200,000, lately floated in London calls attention to the various sources of income possessed by the Province, chief amongst which stands the royalty on minerals, and fees in connection therewith. These have been steadily increasing for some years, and last year amounted to 169,503 dollars. Looking to the vast mineral wealth of Nova Scotia, as attested by Professor Dawson, and the development of which has hardly been commenced, there can be no question that this source of revenue will be largely augmented in the future, and will of itself form an ample guarantee for a much larger loan than that now offered for subscription. As we pointed out at the time, when combatting the proposed increase of royalty, the true policy would be to so decrease the royalty that capital would be drawn to the country and to coal mining investments, thus largely increasing the coal output and augmenting the revenue from that source. Instead, the suicidal policy of increasing the royalty and violating the provisions of existing leases was adopted, and the resulting discussion has placed our mining laws in such an unfavorable light that foreign capitalists have been deterred from investing here. The "vast mineral wealth of Nova Scotia," the development of which, as Premier Fielding says, has "hardly commenced," is likely to remain undeveloped, crippled by unwise legislation. This may still be remedied, but if speedy action is not taken the Government will find that they have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT.

Mining Editor, The Critic.

Now that the sale of the Annand et al mines has been consummated, I will try and give a synopsis of what the London Syndicate has purchased. In the first place I refrained from doing so before knowing full well that many people are prone to say, "he is only blowing the mine up for sale." Such was not our intention, but rather to try to bring to the notice of the public, and of the world, that we have in Nova Scotia, and that within five miles of the city of Halifax, a gold mine as a free gold producer that is hard to duplicate. We chose rather that they should sell on their merits of past and present matches records as a nugget producer, so well and favorably known locally, requires no further comment from us. The Rose, which is their eastern mine, was so called from the color of the drift quartz found on the surface, and was discovered by our well-known friend, G. W. Stuart, Esq., now of Truro, after a long and difficult search. This gentleman was possessed of that determined energy, perseverance and will-power which knows no defeat. We are happy to say it panned out well for him and his associates. This mine, like the celebrated Annand, had one very rich roll or gold dip, characteristic of this district, dipping to the west at the same angle of 43 or 45 degrees, with the exception that this mine had the gold not so coarse but more disseminated through the roll it mining from 10 to 20 oz. to the ton. I have seen, while I worked for the New York Co., to whom Mr. Stuart & Co. sold, 50 tons of quartz give 800 ozs. of gold, which will give some idea of the extraordinary richness of these chutes or chimneys.

This roll was supposed to be lost by the New York Co. when they came to a dislocation on horizontal fissure at the depth of 200 feet in what they called No. 2 or crusher shaft. Instead of driving north or south they sunk 187 feet in a line with the original working belt. They finally gave it up as a played out mine. After laying idle several years full of water a local company bought it from the N. Y. Co., the writer being one of them. After pumping the water out 200 feet to the dislocation we drove a tunnel across to the south, where we found the lead had been shifted 3 feet south of the south or hanging wall, or rather 7 feet from the original north wall. We then followed the angle or dip of the chimney to the west, and found as good ore as before until we were in 45 or 50 feet, when we came to a pinch where it decreased to several small slins of quartz mixed with slate, we still followed the dip for 15 feet further west, when it came to its proper size or about 16 to 18 inches, and the gold with it. Our boilers then gave out, and we had reluctantly to take up our pumps. There was an erroneous report made that we had lost the lead this time for good. Such was not the case, however, as the two men who stood last in the tunnel, Mr. Gordon Cameron, foreman, and also Philip Cush, one of the miners, can show several nuggets sticking in the face of the tunnel whenever it is pumped out. The celebrated Annand lead lies 50 feet to the north not worked, also the Holly lead which turned out well for the amount of work done, also several other well known leads that never were worked on this mine.

And now we come to the Annand mine. Three years ago last November, six of us, practical miners, made application to Mr. Annand, the owner of this mine, to work it on tribute. We were laughed at, as it was called played out. We however had faith in this district and had faith in ourselves, even if we hadn't much money, and secured a lease for six months. We put the pumps at work, the mine being full of water, and after pumping for 15 days, we had the water low enough to put in the first shot in the bottom of No. 3 shaft. That shot didn't show much. The next shot threw out a \$1500 nugget, which gave us courage and renewed energy. From that day until now it has proved a great success, having a brilliant record, and has always paid a dividend to its worthy owner, Charles Annand, Esq., a gen-

tleman who deserves a great deal of credit, having done so much to bring our mines to the notice of and effect a sale to a powerful London Syndicate. We congratulate him on his great success.

Now that these mines have passed into the hands of such eminent and world renowned capitalists and engineers, we predict for them a bright future, with thorough judicious business management. We believe this from the work already done from our experience of 25 years in almost every mining camp in the Province, including six spent in the gold and silver mining countries of the West, from Colorado to Arizona. Our opinion is that we are just finding out that we have the richest gold mining county in the world to-day.

Next we come to the Montreal, another of the purchased properties, and a good mine, carrying all the leads in the other mines, only three of which have been worked, and then only to a slight depth. It has paid well and is a very promising property. Now, we are up to the Lawson. The record of this mine is too well known to say anything more. It is reported on good authority that the Lawson Brothers took \$175,000 clear profit, with 30 or 40 men in five years. There are several leads on this property which have been worked. The Skerry lead lies near the south border of this mine, and we have seen a few Tribraters take over 100 oz. out of a quarter ton of its ore. Next comes the Oland mine, another celebrated gold producer. The most notable leads being the Cross, Skerry and Bell, and several others, on which very little work has been done.

And now these mines, the very heart, body and bones of this fine district, comprising nearly a square mile of territory, have passed into the hands of Capt. Lucius Boyd, who represents the London Syndicate. Mr. Boyd is a gentleman of world wide experience as a Mining Engineer and expert, and is at home in his loved profession. Great credit is due the late management, the genial and efficient manager, Mr. A. P. McQuarrie, and also his capable and experienced foreman, Mr. William Collins. Day or night, wet or dry, this man is always ready for a call, and has the happy disposition and tact to get along so well with those under him. An indefatigable worker himself, he sees that others do the same, and through his watchful care no accident to man or property has ever happened on this work. Those two men have been retained under Captain Boyd—A. P. McQuarrie as manager, William Collins as underground manager; and also John C. McQuarrie, amalgamator, also, all the men employed by the late management.

Now, what the future of this mine may be, we cannot say. One man cannot see further into rock than another. We take our criterion from what this district turned out in former years, and the signs in the rock of this particular district. One thing we can say, and that is that the new company have made a fine start, as Mr. Collins pulled as handsome a nugget as we have seen for some time—just one week from the day that our sociable and able Capt. Lucius Boyd took charge.

Wishing the new company every success, and thanking you, Mr. Editor, for all past and present favors, while hoping it may fall into the hands of one more capable to give you items in the future,

Yours, &c.,

JOHN C. MACQUARRIE,
Amalgamator.

MONTAGUE.—Major J. Johnson, one of the owners of the Kaye-Symonds property recently purchased from Mr. O and, has arrived from England, and will at once begin active mining work.

Mr. John Daw, jr., mining and civil engineer, of London and Norway, is now visiting in Nova Scotia, the guest of Capt. MacLuff at Waverley. He will inspect a number of gold mines under the guidance of the Captain, and important results may follow from his visit, as he is a gentleman of great influence in his profession.

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