

The condition of affairs was bad enough but the situation was made much worse by the fact that the company had never built any coke ovens of their own, and that at this time only one colliery mined a coal suitable for coking, and also owned the only coke ovens in the country, they consequently supplied coke at their own price, helping materially to kill the goose which laid the golden egg. One day an explosion took place in this particular mine, set the mine on fire, and closed it. It has been closed ever since. For a time coke was not to be had for the iron mines at any price, the blast furnaces had to be shut down, and the loss from this cause alone can be better imagined than described. After this experience some coke ovens were built, and to some extent this has made the company independent, finally a coal mine was purchased and fully equipped, but upon practical trials, the coal was found to be to some considerable extent unfitted for their uses. It was also discovered that owing to an arrangement to have their iron ore mined by contract, that the contractor had made money for himself but had permanently ruined one of the iron mines.

Instead of running a general store from which a considerable revenue would accrue, some outsider was granted the privilege and took advantage of it.

Is it surprising that after all these vicissitudes and bearing in mind the fact that until 1880 imported pig iron was admitted free of duty into Canada, that the company failed. It is more to be wondered at that they struggled on as long as they did.

In 1880 an import duty of \$2 per ton was imposed, and in 1883 a bounty of \$1.50 per ton of pig iron manufactured out of Canadian ore, was granted by the Dominion Government. Under these improved conditions, the company's operations were continued by the liquidators. It is to be hoped that a re-organization will be effected, the management centred in Canada, and the enterprise made productive to the proprietors and the country at large. Under a careful management, there can be no question that a satisfactory dividend can be earned, upon the expenditure of the works as they stand.

It is manifestly unfair to condemn every projected iron making enterprise in Canada, simply because in the past this particular case has not succeeded. In spite of all their troubles the pig iron, bar iron and other products of the London-derry works have been of a very superior quality and have always commanded the highest price in the market.

### Quebec.

An assay of the ore taken from the Belvedere deposit, in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, has been made by Mr. Hoffman, of the Geological Survey, and is reported to give 28.29 per cent. of metallic iron.

An exchange says the lead mining property on Chitt's Island, owned by Captains Cowley and Murphy, was last week sold to Mr. James Robertson of the Montreal Lead Works. Mr. Robertson intends to have the land surveyed into small sections and placed upon the European market without delay. The property contains nearly one thousand acres.

We understand that Mr. F. Stacy Shirley has been appointed manager to the Du Lavee Milling and Mining Company, at Bassin du Lavee, vice Mr. Geo. H. Bacon, resigned. This company, which has been frequently erroneously referred to as Messrs. Bacon & Co., own the Lavee phosphatic property, and we learn that the

investors are now taking hold of the mine, and commence active operations at it as soon as the weather will permit them doing so profitably.

Messrs. G. H. Nicholson & Co., of New York, proprietors of the Albert mines, have purchased from the Eastern Townships Bank, together with all the movables, the Hartford and Capel mines. This property was owned and worked for many years by the Canadian Copper and Sulphur Co., Limited, but owing to financial difficulties they were obliged to close down some two years ago and the property was all acquired by the Eastern Townships Bank at sheriff's sale. The new owners will resume operations in the above mines at an early date.

### Ontario.

The London correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, mentions two important assays of Canadian minerals having been made, one from the Sudbury copper mines, the other specimen was argentiferous lead ore from the mines of Mr. Edward Wright, situated at Lake Temiscamingue. It was found by dry assay, to contain of lead (metallic) 52 per cent of silver 13 oz. 14 dwts. 10 grs., per ton of ore of 2,240 lbs., or of silver 26 oz. 7 dwts. and 21 grs. per ton of lead of 2,240 lbs. This latter property is now connected with the Canadian Pacific railway by water and by tramway, and it is expected to prove of considerable value.

### THUNDER BAY DISTRICT.

Work has been suspended for the present at the Elgin mine.

It is understood that negotiations for the sale of Silver Mountain West End property will soon be concluded.

An air compressor, capable of driving three drills, is in course of erection at the East End Silver Mountain mine.

The shaft at the Partridge Rock Silver Mine is now down about thirty feet. The indications for silver are reported to be most encouraging.

The *Miner* reports that a big strike of rich ore has been made at the Beaver mine. It has been made in the drift, beyond the shaft about 150 feet, and is of almost unexampled richness. About 350 pounds of ore have been brought into town which will assay from 1,000 to 2,000 oz. to the ton. The vein has been laid bare for about 18 feet of its depth and for about 400 feet long; it shows not 7 feet wide, and is uniformly as good as the samples all the way across.

The following are the directors of "The Consolidated Huronian Gold Mining Company of Ontario":—Horace J. Neville, G. A. Thompson and Alexander McEwan, of London, England; A. R. Gray, Edinburgh, Scotland; James McLaren, Buckingham, Quebec; J. A. Keefer, Port Arthur; and N. Kingsmills and A. J. Cathanact, Toronto. The capital stock is \$1,300,000, with an additional working capital of \$500,000. The head office of the new company will be at Port Arthur.

### Manitoba and North-West Territories.

A member of the Geological Survey staff who has been engaged during the past season in the work of investigating the coal deposits of the Saskatchewan region states that the coal supply of the North-West is absolutely inexhaustible, and

that the whole district lying between Rocky Mountain House and Fort Pitt is one vast series of coal beds, both hard and soft, of the very best quality.

In the last Canada Gazette notice is given that Duncan McArthur, W. R. Allan, F. A. Fairchild, R. D. Bathgate, Archibald Wright and C. W. Betts, all of Winnipeg, apply to the Governor-in-Council for letters patent incorporating such applicants a body corporate and politic under the corporate name of "The Rocky Mountain Mining and Lumbering Company (Limited)," for the purpose of carrying on a mining and lumbering business within the Dominion of Canada, also for the purpose of said company, to build, equip and operate tramways, sailing and steam vessels for the carriage of lumber, timber, minerals or mineral ores or any other production by said company; to purchase, build and erect stamp mills, saw and planing mills, or any one or more thereof. The head office of the company will be at the City of Winnipeg.

Work is being actively pursued at the Saskatchewan coal mine. Some difficulty has been experienced owing to the scarcity of miners. The Hungarians who had been employed were found to be worthless, and had to be discharged, and operations are now being carried on by miners imported from Nova Scotia, who are working on a percentage. The present staff employed is 71 men and the daily output is 75 tons. The capacity of the mining machinery is 260 tons per diem, and as soon as the management can place their full staff to work, this is expected to be their daily output. Mr. W. M. Caldwell, of the firm of Caldwell & Keenan, under whose superintendance the work of development is being carried on, states that when they began work the mine had been neglected for about eighteen months, and it was covered with water to the depth of from 16 to 18 inches. The old company sank their shafts at the base of the hill under which the mine is, and did not work more than from twenty to thirty-five feet of cover. He had, however, run two shafts right under the hill and they are now working under a cover of two and three hundred feet. So far the shafts have run in 370 feet, and they are steadily going forward. He states that as they get deeper and deeper into the earth the coal continues to improve in quality.

### British Columbia.

Mining operations in the Kootenay district have been suspended for the winter.

In another column is given a copy of Mr. G. A. Koch's report to the directors upon the mining property belonging to the British Columbia Milling and Mining Company.

A quartz nugget taken from Granite creek was recently sold to Mr. I. B. Fisher, of the Bank of British Columbia, New Westminster. It weighed 34 ounces, and after allowing 40% for quartz, is valued at \$340.00.

Work has been begun by awarding the contract for grading the site of the shaft house, and sinking 50 feet on the vein from the surface, to connect the present blind shaft, which is down fifty feet from the end of the tunnel, developing the vein 105 feet from the surface, where it cross cuts in the ledge, showing a vein of 23 feet in width between walls.