

## MARKED PROSPERITY IN THE COAL TRADE.

The increased and increasing market for coal has for the first time taxed our collieries beyond their capacity for delivering, the Provincial Treasury is becoming plethoric from royalties, coal miners are as well paid as in any part of the world and work less, indeed with the prospective increase of working collieries in view, the day can not be far distant when labor must be imported.

## PROSPECTING FOR COPPER AND IRON ORES.

The prospecting and developing work done in the iron districts gives substantial reason for belief, that iron ore production will be an important feature at an early date.

In Cape Breton County there is good reason to hope for workable deposits of copper ore but on the main land I have yet to learn of any inducements to invest capital in copper. The discovery of copper stains in the mud on the banks of French River however was enough, in the opinion of certain gentlemen, to organize a million dollar company, call it the Copper Crown Mining Company, ask the Canadian Government for a bounty on copper, work Pictou for a free site, exemption from taxes for 20 years, etc., buy some second hand mining machinery, erect an alleged "smelter" and finally to energetically proceed to sell stock in the industrial towns of New England.

## GOLD MINING.

The Gold Mining Industry is, I believe, in a more healthful state than ever before. Each year sees an increasing amount of legitimate development work done. The vital necessity of creating ore reserves is being forced on our operators and the altogether wasteful and vicious system of at once taking out every pound of ore uncovered is being slowly but surely relegated to the past. A goodly share of the work in all gold districts is being done by legitimate investment with out stock jobbing, at Waverly, for instance, where development has been in progress for some years there has been recently erected a magnificent plant and the public has not been asked to buy stock.

At Caribou extensive development on a large body of ore has been progressing for several years, the work being backed by private capital.

And, equally, in many other districts, honest and comprehensive work is being done which is sure to result in good not only to the operators but to the industry in general.

## FAKE SCHEMES CONDEMNED.

I regret to have noticed several instances, however, where this Province has been made the base for schemes which need the light of day on them and, at the risk of wearying you, I will call your attention to some of the most flagrant. I have here a circular of "The Union Development Co." with "mines in Nova Scotia, California, Mexico and Montana, capital \$50,000, Mr. J. Burpee Neily, Boston, Mass., President," etc. Now this man is exceedingly well known in his native Province so you will not be surprised to learn that the attempts to float this scheme were in Worcester, Lawrence and other Massachusetts Towns and in Montreal. To give an idea of the probable reliability of all the claims in this circular I will quote and comment on one claim the "East Mine located at Brookfield, Queens County" from which the circular says: "Official returns (at the mines office) show that more than 5,000 tons of ore have been mined and milled from this vein producing an average of 19 dwts. to the ton."

Now this statement is true, but facts which he does not mention are equally true. I will supply a few. First, at the time of his statement no returns had been made at the Mines Office for over six years, although operations had been carried on the most of the time and for something over two years by Neily himself, and always at a heavy loss, incurred, in my opinion, by ignorance.

The circular also claims as "possible profits from Nova Scotia mines (Neily's mines, remember) per year \$936,000" or about 50 per cent. more than our gross output last year. All his Nova Scotia mines have since been closed and bills for labor and supplies are unpaid.

When the Copper Crown Mining Company's dreams at New Annam began to fade and their "Smelter" at Pictou would not even smelt, the cargo of genuine copper ore bought in Newfoundland, the promoters secured some gold areas at Mills Village, Queens County, sunk a shaft, struck a small pocket of rich specimens, took them and scooted back to Boston, organized a million dollar stock company, called it the Gold Eagle Mining Company, Office, Room 74-373 Washington St., Boston, printed circulars

showing up their property in iridescent hues and from one of those circulars I make extracts:—

"A 2' stamp mill will crush about 40 tons per 24 hours of this rock which will average at least 2½ ounces of gold per ton, value \$50.00, making \$2,000 gross daily.

The maximum expense will not exceed \$100, leaving \$1,900 or \$17,500 per month.

When increased to 200 tons per day will yield a net profit of \$237,500 monthly or \$2,850,000 annually.

Two thirds of the profits will be available for dividends (payable monthly), the balance will be reserved for a working surplus."

With an euphonious regard for the eternal fitness of things this advertisement in a recent number of a New Bedford paper:

## "DIVIDEND PAID.

"The first quarterly dividend of the Gold Eagle Mining Co. will be paid through the office of H. F. Balcock, 218 Fourth st., New Bedford, Mass., April 1st, 1901, to all stockholders in this section."

This Copper Crown—Gold Eagle combine have sold many thousands of shares of Gold Eagle stock to victims in New Bedford, Brockton and other industrial cities in Massachusetts, at from par to \$2.00 per share, and now they propose to pay a dividend in order to bolster up a desperate effort to dispose of another larger block of Gold Eagle stock before the crash comes.

What have been their mining operations? Briefly these: On their property a rattle trap 10 stamp mill has been erected, fitted up with obsolete machinery which had been rusting on Molegn Barrens for 12 years.

A short time since a sworn return was made at the Mines Office from the Gold Eagle mine for their mill work and returns since commencing crushing last October, and they are, 435 tons of ore crushed and 318 ounces of gold extracted.

Now I am in position to state that from 1,500 to 2,000 tons of ore were crushed, and it was poor mill work at that. Where is their \$50 ore and where do the dividends come from?

Not content with these operations the same gentry are now operating in the Leipsigate District, and are out with "Facts and Figures worth reading" about the "Black Hawk Mining Company," which is "Located on the Mother Lode (!) of Nova Scotia, nine miles from Bridgewater," and where "there is now according to measurement upwards of 60,000 tons of milling rock, blocked out, with assay value from \$20 to \$50 per ton in vein No. 1."

I will stake my reputation that all the mines in that district have not 6,000 tons of ore blocked out; and yet these men are buying large space in the Boston *Sunday Herald* and offering their stock at par on a capitalization of \$1,000,000.

Such operations as I have described do untold harm to the legitimate mining industry. I believe in the future of each of the districts I have mentioned, but not in such flim-flam games as I have described.

## NEED OF A GOVERNMENT ASSAY OFFICE.

And here are arguments for a creation of a Government Assay Office with a department for the collection and dissemination of reliable statistics and information as to our metalliferous resources.

Nova Scotia reserves of coal iron and gold, in my belief, offer attractions to investors, second to no other portion of the mining world. All the adjuncts necessary to the mining man are always at his door. No country offers more generous and equitable laws to the miner. Life and property rest in unrivalled security. The earth does not know a more hospitable people.

In my loyalty to these great mining resources lie my apologies for taking so much of your time to-day. (Applause.)

## VOTE OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT.

Mr. F. H. MASON proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his admirable address.

Mr. Mason's motion was cordially seconded by Mr. Fergie.

THE PRESIDENT:—Your words of appreciation are very agreeable to me. The fact that the public has been often victimized in the past and is being victimized to-day, is the reason why I have written so strongly on a subject on which I feel strongly.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE SECRETARY read the financial statement for the past year. Also a statement of the receipts and expenditure in relation to the reception of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in August last, all having been audited.