

## MINING.—Continued.

carried along with it, and we would naturally expect it to continue down to the bed it was carried from. These fissure lodes have been worked to a great depth in other countries. Why not here?

But the great trouble with some of the Western mines is this. When a man takes up ground in a new district, other parties are sure to take up all around him, then they wait until he prospects his ground. If he finds something big, then those around him will do a lot of prospecting, even if their ground don't come within a half mile of a lode that carries gold, but if No. one finds he has not covered his ground, and he cannot find anything big, then those around him lack courage to prospect, although they have the gold on their property. This, for a time, has hung up several gold districts in Lunenburg and Queens. But the Malaga Lake district fell into the hands of men that have had some experience in Nova Scotia gold mines, and they adopted the wise policy of not being in too much of a hurry in putting up mills. They prospected for nearly two years, until they understood the district thoroughly. Now they have placed the machinery in such a way that they can work their lodes to advantage on the deep mining system.

Now, judging from the extent of the district, and the number and size of the leads, and the amount and evenness of the gold in them, I believe this district can be worked as deep as gold mines are generally worked in any country.

MARK ANTHONY.

**GOLD DUST.**—The value of gold dust was not known to the earliest miners in California. Marshall, and those who were with him at the saw mill race, had never seen gold in its virgin state before the discovery. The first gold sold at Coloma, it is said, only brought \$8 an ounce, but it after ward rose to \$16, at which figure it remained for some years. Sellers and buyers did not for a long time recognize any difference in the value of different dust. "What are you paying for dust to day?" was the question often asked by the miners of the dust buyers. Thus in those times no more difference was recognized in the quality of different gold dust than is to-day recognized in the quality of different sand or sawdust. Buyers mixed their dust together when they sent it to the mint, and paid an average price for it all. This was a very good thing for the miners who had poor dust, and very unfair to those who had dust of the best quality. Afterward it was found that the dust as it was taken from the earth varied greatly in value. Some of it, according to mint returns, was worth even as low as \$9 an ounce, and some was worth \$20 and more. This is on account of the fact that a greater or less amount of baser metal, silver, copper, etc., is always found in alloy with gold in its natural state. Gold dust also differs as much in appearance as it does in quality. Some of it is yellow and bright, and some is dull in color, dark green, and black. The bright yellow dust is not always the best in quality, as might ordinarily be supposed. Some of the purest gold ever mined has been almost black in color. There is also no uniformity in the form of the particles of gold dust. Some is fine and flour-like, some is coarse and smoothly worn, and some is rough and scraggly. Dust taken from any one locality in a mining district is always remarkably uniform in value, color and form. This fact enables buyers, after some experience, to determine immediately from what locality dust is mined, and what is its value.

Peculiarities in the form of gold taken from mining districts often gave a name to the locality. Chunk Canon, Slug Gulch, and Specimen Ravine are examples. A canon in El Dorado County is called String Canon. This is said to be on account of the very singular form of the gold dust found in that region. Much of it resembles pieces of wire, one and two inches in length, and some of it is as fine as thread.

Observations of the form of their dust often led miners to make very valuable discoveries. All gold, as is well known, originally came from quartz. In its natural state in the quartz it is very irregular in form. Every rich ravine and canon had a gold-bearing quartz vein, whose wearing away by the elements had loosened the precious metal to be washed down by the water among the gravel and sand. When gold has been washed far from its sources the attrition causes it to become fine and smooth. As the miner approaches the feeding quartz vein the gold becomes coarser and more scraggly, till suddenly the pay gives out entirely. Then it is certain that a rich quartz ledge is in the vicinity, and in this manner veins have been struck that have yielded many thousands of dollars in a few weeks.—*San Francisco Post.*

**CONCENTRATES.**—The newest pool that is talked of is in mica.

The estimated product of quicksilver in California for 1887 is 31,000 flasks, and the export 18,000 flasks.

The Norosti says that Russia proposes to place an export duty upon platinum of fifteen gold roubles per pood.

The amount of pig lead paying duty which was imported during the year 1887 was about 3,900 tons.

The total amount of phosphates exported from Montreal amounted to 20,349 tons, against 19,298 in 1886, a gain of 1,051 tons, though less than in some previous years.

The total production of the Leadville District for 1887 is reported to have been \$12,072,967, making a total from 1860 to 1887 of \$132,890,939.

Work at the Zelaya Mining Company's property at Guadaloupe, Honduras, is being pushed vigorously, and it is stated that large bodies of rich gold ore have been uncovered at the Colonia mine.

The importations of tin plate, on which duties were paid at the Chicago custom house, in 1887, were 300,124 boxes, weight 48,434,054 lbs. against 268,487 boxes, and 33,912,679 lbs. in 1886, an increase of 91,637 boxes and 4,521,475 lbs. The duties paid on the Chicago importations in 1887 were \$49,340.

## WHAT

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**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.**

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Post Office, &c., Dalhousie, N. B.," will be received at this office until Tuesday, 10th July, 1888, for the several works required in the erection of Post Office, &c., at Dalhousie, N. B.

Specifications and drawings can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of W. S. Smith, Esq., Harbor Master, Dalhousie, N. B., on and after Friday, 22nd June, and tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied and signed with actual signatures of tenders.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of amount of tender, must accompany tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party decline the contract, or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,  
A. GOBEIL,  
Secretary.  
Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, 20th of June, 1888.

**SEALED TENDERS,** addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Barn, Stabling and Residences at Experimental Farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia," will be received at this office until Thursday, 12th July, 1888, for the several works required in the erection of Barn, Stabling and Residences at Experimental Farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia.

Specifications and drawings can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the residence of Col. W. M. Blair, Superintendent Experimental Farm, Nappan, near Amherst, N. S., on and after Wednesday, 20th June, and tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied and signed with actual signatures of tenders.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works equal to five per cent. of amount of tender, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party decline the contract, or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,  
A. GOBEIL,  
Secretary.  
Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, 18th June, 1888.

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