

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

The MARITIME MINING RECORD is published the second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

The RECORD is devoted to the Mining—particularly Coal Mining—Industries of the Maritime Provinces.

Advertising rates, which are moderate, may be had on application.

Subscription \$1.00 a year. Single Copies 5 cents.

R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON, N. S.

NOV. 24

SCOTIA'S IRON ORES.

Surely the usual good humor of the financial editor of the Montreal Star forsook him temporarily else he would not have given the directorate of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. so ugly a blow below the belt. The occasion of the Star's remarks was as follows: Some person or persons had circulated the report up Montreal ways that the iron ore of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. was not all that it was cracked up to be, or, in other words, that as the sinking of the slopes was proceeding, faults and broken ground were being encountered. Some one in Montreal brought this report to the notice of a director of Scotia, who wired, in substance, that the Scotia directors were not worrying over faults but were perfectly satisfied with the progress made. In answer to a correspondent the Star more than hinted that it was the province of the directors of big companies to disregard the truth at times, or in short, to lie. The Star editor may have had experience with directors of other companies, and his judgment, so far as these are concerned, may be just, but certainly he cannot have had any experience with the directors, at least the Nova Scotia directors, of the N. S. S. & Coal Co., otherwise he would have censured them for not giving fuller publicity to the facts, the truth. The directors of the N. S. S. & Coal Co. don't say enough and don't say it often enough. They are themselves satisfied and stop at that. But we take exception to this policy. They should not forget they have a duty to their shareholders, more a duty as the stock cannot be looked upon as a favorite speculative one. There are numerous small shareholders and the trepidation of these should be allayed when provoked by those who for years have made a sort of football of the stock. It is all very well for the directors to say 'we are engaged in a legitimate business and take no stock of the ticker.' These smaller shareholders take a keen interest in the ticker, more especially when it is sought to affect its vibrations by barish and unwarranted reports. Silence is not at all times golden, in fact it may be the very opposite. Everybody almost this side of Toronto knows that F. P. Jones of the Dominion Steel Co. is an energetic and capable man, and that he has made good. But everybody this side of Toronto, everybody in Nova Scotia even, would never have been familiar with these facts had Mr. Jones placed any impediment in the way of their being made public. The Scotia peo-

ple have a magnificent property at Wabana, but the public generally will not be made aware of the fact, if, when the property is wittingly or unwittingly depreciated, the directors pursue a policy of silence, or content themselves with the remark: 'We are satisfied.' The RECORD has possibly a leaning toward Scotia, due to the fact that it is a concern which had its birth in Nova Scotia, and that, from small things it attained to big, not by extraneous aid, but by and through the indomitable industry, pluck and perseverance of its promoters.

Nigh a year ago, at the time when the Scotia people had driven through the ground intervening between their land and submarine areas, some figures were published in the Montreal Star and the Record, in an attempt to prove the vast value of the ore deposit. Since these figures were published a large amount of development work has been done. The slopes are now down twelve hundred feet past the boundary line of the Dominion Steel Co. There are two seams being worked at present by the Dominion Steel Co. which we will call the upper and the middle seams, and one by the Scotia people the middle seam. Between the Scotia land and submarine area there is territory extending seawards not quite 4,000 feet which is owned by the Dominion Steel people. In order to get to their submarine area the Scotia management was given permission to drive through this nigh 4,000 feet of intervening territory. At intervals, in driving the slope, 'faults' were encountered, in the 4,000 feet of the Dominion Steel Co's ground as well as in the 1200 ft. submarine of the Scotia's property. The most violent vault was encountered while driving through the Dom. Steel Co's ground, and yet the meeting with it did not jar the tunnelers a bit, let alone discourage them. While probably nature laid all seams of coal and iron even and running uniformly at first, the formation was subsequently disarranged, interfered with by the earth's convulsions. Few seams either of coal or iron, or of any mineral, are faultless. In a coal mine there may be a temporary cut off, the same in an iron mine, while in a gold or a silver mine frequently lean, non paying, ore is encountered. Had our slope and our shaft sinkers in Nova Scotia become discouraged on encountering a fault, there would have been few coal mines in Nova Scotia to-day. In driving a slope 6,000 feet it was to be expected that faults would be met with. The faults met with, in the way of down throws, at Wabana, are scarcely worthy of notice, and caused no interruption to progress. They were unimportant, as the greatest of them did not extend beyond ten feet. To make plain: When the slope had penetrated the Scotia seam, 400 feet from the Dominion Steel boundary, a fault, a downthrow, was met. The sinkers drove through the rock and regained the seam running its regular course at 410 feet. In driving the 1200 feet submarine, two or three downthrows were encountered, but after driving a few feet in the rock, the seam was again struck. No 'broken' ground was encountered, purely clean cut faults, or downthrows, and if there were any who tried to create the impression that the ore seams at Wabana were in 'faulty'—as generally understood—or broken ground, then they sought to do an injustice to one of the finest ore deposits in the world. If the seam was faulty there could not