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The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.

Visitors from the mining districts as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

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Address all correspondence, &c., to the Publishers of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, Ottawa.

The opening up of new tracts of country throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion by means of railway enterprises and exploration in the interests of our lumbermen is concomitantly bringing an increased number of mineral occurrences to view. Comparatively few people in Canada seem to realize the importance to a country of encouragement to mining industry, and among certain classes mining is looked upon in no other light than that of speculation, while some people go so far as to term it a gambling operation. Farmers have been known to come to hopeless grief in attempting to prosecute farming on legitimate principles; but who will deny that the largest source of wealth is derived from cultivation of the soil? Because investments in timber limits have, in some instances, proved unprofitable, it must not be said that our lumbering industry has not benefited the country; and because the majority of mines do not pay large dividends, can we question the fact that every ounce of economic mineral brought to the surface represents so much additional wealth to the country in which it is mined? Mining is a steady source of revenue to the older countries of the world, and it might be made a very important and remunerative industry in Canada, and one that would add materially to the wealth of the Dominion. The importance of utilizing natural mineral wealth is so well recognized in Germany that the Government works the majority of the mines. In France all mining engineers

are Government engineers; and in England the Government supplies inspectors in all the mining sections, and a record-keeper to collect statistics, while private enterprise does the rest. What is the Government of Canada doing, and what has it ever done, toward furthering and encouraging the development of our mineral resources?

The vast extent of Canada's territorial possession renders it practically impossible for the staff at present employed on the Geological Survey to do more than devote attention to the geological features of the country. It is of course very important that we should have a knowledge of the geological formation of our Dominion, but that her mineralogical features should be almost entirely neglected is not to the best interests of individuals, of our people as a whole, or of any section of our community. A mineralogical and mining department should be attached to the Geological Survey, whose duty it would be to collect and dispense information relating to the mineral deposits in all parts of the Dominion, and to keep records of mining statistics. Up to the present day we have no official record of what has been accomplished by Canadian miners, and no official reports relating to our mineral deposits to which capitalists or any one who may desire to engage in legitimate mining can refer. In a few weeks the mineral resources of Canada will be represented at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London by upwards of 725 exhibits, which will doubtless lead to enquiry for reliable information concerning the extent and nature of the deposits. From what official records can this information be supplied? Before capitalists can be induced to invest their money in mining enterprises they must be well informed by some unprejudiced and disinterested authority, and what could be more authentic than the official reports and records of a Mineralogical and Mining department of the Geological Survey? Yet such a thing does not exist.

We have stated in former numbers of the REVIEW that capitalists are making enquiries for mineral lands with a view to investing in them and engaging in active mining operations. Such enquiry continues, but while owners of undeveloped properties hold them at exorbitant prices, capital will seek investment elsewhere and the advancement of our mining industries will be impeded. A mine may be purchased without risk as there is no difficulty in arriving at its actual value, but a prospect must be looked upon purely as a speculation; it may prove worthless and, possibly, it might develop into a bonanza. The investor who risks his money in a prospect should, therefore, not be expected to pay as much for it as he might be disposed to give for a developed mine. Capital is the agent we most require in Canada to successfully build up and develop great mining industries. With its assistance much could be accomplished; without it we are helpless to avail ourselves of the mineral wealth

which Nature has so lavishly deposited for our use. Let us, therefore, offer some inducement to capitalists to invest in mining enterprises in Canada and not drive them from us by allowing them no margin for profit on their investments.

Mr. L. H. Shirley, M. E., of Montreal, and Mr. J. M. Lamb of Toronto have, during the past month, made an extended tour through the phosphate district of Ottawa County and visited all the mines in operation. They report having seen some promising undeveloped deposits and that a very large quantity of ore is being raised at the mines.

Dr. Selwyn, Director of the Geological Survey, sailed from New York on 11th inst. by s.s. *Britannic*. The Director has gone to England to see that everything is in readiness to receive the Canadian mineral exhibit for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and to personally superintend its arrangement. He will remain in England until the Exhibition closes.

Mr. T. S. Higginson returned recently to Ottawa from the Rocky Mountains, where he had been exploring for the past year, and speaks in the highest terms of the prospects for mining in that region. He has brought with him some wonderfully rich specimens of gold-bearing quartz and argenteiferous galena from discoveries he himself made the analysis of which have shown the quartz to carry a very large quantity of gold and the galena to yield upwards of \$500 in silver to the ton. Mr. Higginson will return in the spring and proceed to open up and develop these locations.

THE PHOSPHATE TRADE.

The phosphate miners in Ottawa County have done good work since the shipping season closed last autumn, and the piles of ore that have accumulated at the various mines offer an imposing sight to people passing through the mining district. Never in the history of this industry in Canada has there been, so early in the year, such a large quantity of ore mined, dressed and awaiting shipment, as there is in stock at this date; and mine owners will not relax their efforts to keep up, and perhaps increase, the average monthly output, which, for the past five months, has run far in excess of the average for the same period in former years. Everything at present points to a largely increased production for this year, and there exists no doubt that during the shipping season of 1886 many thousands of tons will go forward in excess of last season. The quality of the ore, too, is quite up to the standard of 1885, which was as high a grade as has ever been shipped from any phosphate deposits in the world. During the past two years, owing to the attention miners have given to dressing the ore, the product of Canadian mines has found much favor abroad with manufacturers of superphosphates, and as the production increases, as it is steadily doing year by year, in the