

San Juan county, has been coming to Durango on weekly visits, buying each time all the beef hides he could find. As he took the hides mountainward, many wondered to what purpose they were being put. A Durango (Col.) Herald reporter met Mr. Hornadyko, and bluntly asked him what he was doing with so many hides.

Well, now that I have proved my theory correct, I have no objection to telling your readers of my doings.

You see all gold hunters know that much gold known as 'float' is washed away continuously. To catch this by any means has always proved impossible, although tried by many different methods from the trial of sluices and running streams. Last spring, I luckily thought of a method which is rapidly making me a rich man.

'How do you do it?' was impatiently asked.

'Why with hides. It's the simplest thing you ever saw. The Animas river tributaries come from the best gold bearing sections of the country. This being the case, much fine or flour gold must pass down the stream. Up above I arranged my plans by selecting a point where the river cuts directly to the bank; here I placed a hide on stakes, allowing the water to skim over it; the hair being placed up stream, of course it caught up all the 'float' of all kinds. After leaving the hide in this position for a week, I took it out and examined it thoroughly, but could discover no trace of gold. Being determined to give my experiment a thorough test, I cut up several pieces and burned them in an old pan; in panning the ashes I was rewarded with over two dollars in gold. Since that time I have devoted my time to getting every hide I could buy, and now have fifty in place at various points. On my clean-ups, which I make on each hide at the end of two weeks, I realize from sixty to ninety dollars in pure gold, which I secure by retorting the ashes of the hides.'

There is a good prospect of recovering No. 2 Slope at the Albion Mines, where the explosion took place in January last. A pit was sunk 40 feet on the cross-cut between Nos. 1 and 2 slopes and the roof blown down; an exploring party descended No. 2 slope and for a short distance into No. 1, encountering heavy falls in No. 2, some of them 30 feet high. No. 1 is very hot, and is no doubt still on fire. A permanent stone wall between the two slopes has been built, and the work of cleaning up and retimbering No. 2 is being proceeded with. A small winding engine has been erected in place of the one lost at the fire. It is thought that coal will be coming out of No. 2 pit by the beginning of the year.

At the Foord pit pumping is still going on. Cages are now down to the rubbish at the bottom of the shaft, and the pumps will now have to be set to work there, in order to remove the balance of the water. It will be a long time yet before any coal can be mined at this pit.

At the new "English" slope operations are proceeding fairly well. The shafts have got through the "step," which proved to be a down-throw of some 22 feet, and the coal is recovered on the other side. Considerable work will have to be taken up for a distance of one hundred feet on the side of the slope, in order to get below the step. The slope is down some 150 feet, but the total depth, when finished, will be in the neighborhood of 1,300 feet.

Work has only been fair of late at the Drummond Colliery, mainly owing to want of tonnage, but when pits did work, a very large quantity of coal was shipped. Some large "time" boats are used this season by the company, but it is found that the smaller boats are more profitable and convenient.

Scarcity of tonnage to carry coal for Upper Province orders has also had a depressing tendency on work at the Vale Colliery. The management employ very large boats—some of them over 3,000 tons—to forward their output. The new sinking on the McLean slope is going down well, and the coal maintains its usual good quality. The company are now supplying the St John Mills, as well as the Steel and Forge Companies at Trenton. At the "Six Foot" seam work is progressing as usual.

The Black Diamond Colliery is working full blast, and 75 tons a day are being raised. Sufficient orders have been obtained to keep these mines busy all season. We understand that some 20,000 tons of Intercolonial Railway contract have fallen to the share of this company.

Coal.—The Terminal City Company are boring for coal on their lands at Canboucou, Richmond County, Cape Breton.

A NEW FLAMELESS EXPLOSIVE FOR COAL MINING.—A new variety of "acurite" explosive has been prepared by Herr Schoeniweg, which is said to be flameless when exploded, and will, it is expected, be of special value as a substitute for ordinary blasting powder and other explosives in *fiery coal mines*. It consists of nitrated hydro-carbons mixed with an oxidizing agent, such as chlorate of potash, and some organic salt which renders the mixture *unstable*. The substance is not hygroscopic, and is of a bright yellow color, and can be kept for any length of time without undergoing any change. It cannot be exploded by a flame, nor by a hot substance, but only by a detonating cap. Recent experiments at Hendon, England, have proved that the new explosive fulfils the anticipations of the inventor; and we understand that the Flameless Explosive Company have undertaken to introduce it to the notice of mine-owners and others, to whom an explosive of this nature should be welcome. Its power is said to be equal to that of No. 1 dynamite, and it can be manufactured at a less cost. The organic salt, which is added to the "acurite" to produce the effect, has also the property of rendering dynamite similarly flameless when mixed with it.

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By order,

A. D. MILLS,

Secretary

Annapolis Royal,  
July 2, 1888.

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