

MINING NOTES.

Mr. Van Buskirk, of the firm of Van Buskirk, Koiser & Co., has been making investigations as to mining in Keewatin, and his report is one full of encouragement. This gentleman was a gold commissioner in Nova Scotia for many years, and is possessed of thorough practical knowledge in connection with quartz mining. His favorable report is, therefore, a valuable testimony to the wealth of the Lake of the Woods mines.

The mining news of the past week is by no means stirring. The work at several shafts of the Lake of the Woods has been carried on steadily, and the Winnipeg Consolidated shaft is now down to a depth of over sixty feet. This company are moving a mill from Boulder Island to their claim, and as soon as weather will permit will commence milling operations. The Kewatin shaft has been steadily progressing, and there will be a race between these two companies as soon as spring opens in the work of actual gold production. Several other workings are progressing equally rapidly, and it only requires the opening of spring for mining in an industrial sense to make a rapid advance.

The sales of mining stock during the week have been very light, owing in a great measure to the tightness of monetary affairs in the city. There have been reports of numerous imaginary sales, which have been set afloat with a speculative intention, but the actual transactions have been few. There will be a powerful effort put forth by the reckless speculative element to reduce the mining business of the Keewatin district to a mere basis of speculation, and numerous worthless schemes will no doubt be floated. It is impossible to avoid this altogether, but parties seeking for mining investment, would do well to be guided to a great extent by how much actual progress towards production has been made. An active effort and work well advanced on a claim are not bad evidences that actual production is fully calculated upon by the projectors of the work.

Industrial Education.

Dr. Rand, chief superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, in 1881, wrote an unofficial letter to his former colleague, Sir Leonard Tilley, Minister of Finance. That excellent commercial paper, the *Montreal Gazette*, in reviewing this letter, contends, and acceptably contends, that suggestions are contained therein which are applicable to the present industrial position and prosperity of Canada. A misconception, it appears, has arisen regarding Dr. Rand's letter, it being inferred that he considered it possible to adapt to the ordinary schools an extended course of industrial instruction. That he considers such an adaptation either possible or desirable Dr. Rand denies and in this he is supported by Dr. Allison, superintendent of education for the sister province of Nova Scotia, both of these gentlemen being of opinion that the ordinary schools have a distinct function to perform, and can deal with those elements of technical knowledge only which are of general application and hence of general utility. It would be manifestly impossible to embrace more than a very few indeed of the occupations pursued in Canada, which, according to the

report, number between three and four hundred. But what can be done is to have the ordinary schools pervaded by an industrial spirit, to cultivate a taste for industrial pursuits, and a respect for honest labor. It is not necessary for us to follow Dr. Rand in tracing the effect of the industrial exhibition of 1881, an inspired conception. Suffice it to say, that taste in workmanship was promoted and nurtured thereby, and that witnessing the fruits of the art education of the British workman, United States and France followed suit with substantial results. Dr. Rand considers a judicious expenditure upon such objects necessary in Canada, more even than in older countries. The question is important for it implies the problem of fructifying our resources and industries and protecting them from the aggression of superior skill from without, as well as the responsibility of providing for our growing population an education of practical value that will suit it for competition with the rest of the world. Dr. Rand recommends that the government should appoint an adviser in industrial education to consider the relation of industrial art to manufactures and other constructive industries; to inquire into the means by which it may be best brought to bear on the industries of the Dominion, and the progress already made in that direction in the public schools and other institutions, in itself and as compared with other countries, and to report on the result and offer suggestions as to how Canadian taste and skill may be increased, and our manufacturing and other industries sustained and elevated. We know that the able Superintendent of Education in this province, and we presume, his Roman Catholic coadjutor, is in favor of an industrial flavour being imparted to education. It is a matter which commends itself to the good will of all men, and no voice but that of hearty approval will be heard in Manitoba if the Dominion Government decide to give effect to Dr. Rand's valuable suggestions.

The Manitoba South-Western.

On Wednesday morning, at 11 o'clock, the annual general meeting of the stockholders of the Manitoba South-western and Colonization Railway took place at the offices of the company in this city, with quite a heavy representation of the two contending sections, who have held the affairs of this company in a turmoil for over a year. The motion of T. C. Scoble, that the chair be taken by General Hammond, was the signal for active hostilities, and the gathering split into two sections, and held separate meetings. The Schultz section, with Col. W. N. Kennedy as chairman, elected Messrs. J. C. Schultz, W. R. Brown, R. R. McLellan, R. L. McGregor, W. N. Kennedy, T. C. Scoble, D. H. McMillan, E. A. C. Pew, and Wm. Murdoch, directors for the ensuing year.

The Hammond section, with General Hammond as chairman, elected General Hammond and Messrs. J. J. Hill, J. H. Ashdown, W. P. Clough, Hugh Sutherland, A. N. Bode, C. C. Smith and A. Manuel directors for the ensuing year.

Both parties claim to represent a majority of the company's stock, and that the election of

their opponents is altogether invalid. Which party is really in the right it remains to be seen, and that will in all probability have to be decided in a law court, which will be the second time that a set of directors for this railway have received confirmation of their election by the decision of a judge.

An Opportunity.

According to a Dutch paper the Amsterdam Exhibition promises to assume unexpectedly large proportions, and to prove of exceptional importance to commerce and industry. Amsterdam itself received the project rather coldly at first; now, however, not only that city but the whole of Holland has become enthusiastic on the subject. More than a thousand Dutch firms are already registered on the list of exhibitors. The number of Belgian exhibitors is even larger than the number of Dutch, 1,100 having been already enrolled. Germany, England and Austria, will also be liberally represented. The Dutch paper does not say that Canada is to be represented; but whether the Dominion do anything or not, the Province of Manitoba should not miss this opportunity. A fine collection of the products of this province should be forwarded and exhibited in the British section. The Dutch do not believe that anywhere else in the world can such wheat as they grow in Zealand be raised. Ocular demonstration is what they require to convince them of the fact that the Canadian North-west alone can excel the product of their rich lands, won from the sea. The prairie grasses excel in sweetness and flavor the finest grasses of the Ramsdank meadows, and it requires here but such careful housewives as the prim maidens and matrons of Gertrudenburg to make butter sweet as that which delights the gourmet of the Hotel des Nouveaux Bains, or cheese such as cause the young merchant prince of the Boom-pjes to call in his friends to the Yacht Club at Rotterdam. No finer class of husbandmen and dairy women exists in the world than the Dutch, and thoroughly domesticated though they be in their habits, the old cosmopolitan adventurous spirit is not yet dead in the land of dykes and windmills. Besides even the Irish of Ulster do not excel the Dutch in growing flax and this is one of the products for the raising of which Manitoba is adapted. The climate is similar and, indeed, Manitoba is a province wherein the Dutch would thrive and be prosperous. Dutch capital is now enlisted in the Canadian Pacific railway enterprise and there is no reason why Dutch muscle should not be enlisted for the development of the Canadian North-west. In their own country the Dutch are content with less wages for the week than what they could make here in the day. If the Canadian Commissioner represent the financial aspect of the inducement offered by the North-west and the provincial authorities show by an exhibit what the capabilities of the country really are, then there will be a migration of the Dutch from the overcrowded fens to the waiting prairies. This immigration would be constant once it begun, for the Dutch when they come, come to stay and have the patient perseverance which ensures success to the immigrant.