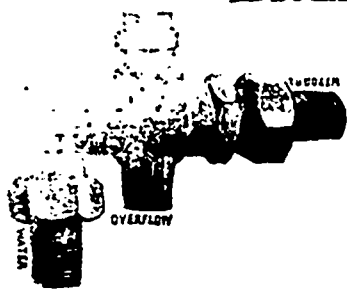


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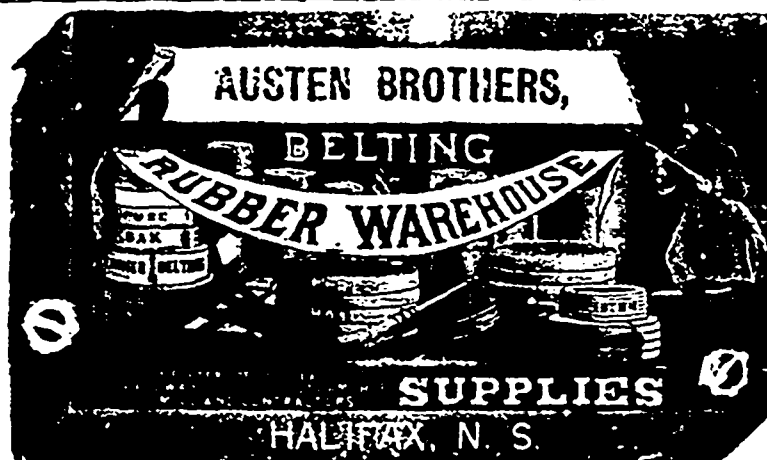
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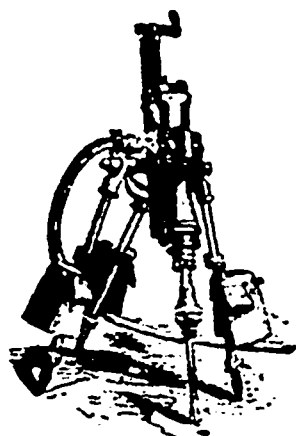
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MINING.

A Sad Drawback to Nova Scotian Gold Miners Through Neglect of Publication of Geological Survey Maps.—The way in which the Geological Survey of our valuable gold fields is carried on is of very great loss to gold miners. The survey of the gold fields of Nova Scotia was begun in Guysborough County in the month of September, 1883, and has been continued ever since west along the Atlantic coast, and not a map published to show what the staff has been doing. Such map is supposed to show the anticlinal and synclinal folds, dips and strikes of the stratum, the boundaries between the whin and slate zones which stretch almost in an east and west direction through the entire length of the gold fields. It shows where these zones or belts have been denuded or rubbed away by glacial action. The course of drift transportation, the turns and breaks in the anticlinals, the granite and gneiss areas, and where they have interrupted and metamorphosed the whin and slate; the nature of the gold bearing stratum, how stratified and folded, and the relation the stratum bear to foreign gold producing countries. The report accompanied with the map gives a full description of everything connected with the geological survey of that field, but without the map the explorer or prospector has no use for such report. The map is his first guide, then if necessary he may refer to the report regarding the nature of the country and its geological formation, and when anticlinals have crossed roads, rivers, lakes, stillwaters, berrons, etc. Seeing that Senator Abbot is about to introduce a bill to enlarge the scope and usefulness of the Geological Survey, it would be well if some of our Nova Scotian Senators and Members of Parliament would assist the Directors of the Geological Survey as they did in previous years when they got the Geological map of Cape Breton published.

A good geological map of fields so noted for their natural wealth as the gold fields of Nova Scotia should have been in circulation long ago, as is plainly apparent from the time since the Survey was commenced in Guysborough and Halifax Counties. There is reason to believe that the Survey may as well be done away with under such delayed management, either that or take an opportunity to advance to the public the result of its work. Were the gold fields and formation free from natural obstruction, i. e., the immensity of drift accumulations, forests, peat bogs, swamps, lakes and stillwaters, miners and prospectors could "probably" void of Geological maps get along, and thus trust in God and keep their powder dry. In this case they could leave the Geological Survey maps to whenever time, space or money might permit their publication, that is, when most of our gold mining locations have been discovered or where the formation has been void of drift accumulations. We have every reason to believe that other portions of the gold fields heavily covered with this drift or glacial deposits would require a carefully compiled Geological map, showing gold bearing anticlinals, and thus save the miners trouble and expense.

The drift is frequently found so rich with quartz blocks or boulders containing gold that thousands of dollars have been spent uselessly in search of the lode or anticlinal from which such drift has been transported. In many cases the lode or anticlinal may have been miles north.

Whenever the drift is found auriferous the miners set to work excavating trenches "north or south" in the drift, across the leads or lines of stratification. Sometimes they are rewarded after labor and expense. The method above mentioned led to the discovery of the Montague Anticlinal, by the well known and experienced miner, Mr. George W. Stuart, now of Killag Gold Mine. In a similar way the Moose River Anticlinal is said to have been discovered by Mr. D. Tuquoy. Several other gold-bearing anticlinals in the Province have been discovered in like manner.

The Geological Survey, in this way, has been greatly aided, so many mines and anticlinals already having been discovered and worked that it is only right that the Geological map be published at once for our guidance, and on a scale of one mile to one inch. If published on a smaller scale the value of the map is rendered useless to the miner.

JOHN MACMILLAN, Explorer.

There was great activity in mining in England in 1889, or rather in the promotion of mining companies. Mr. Edward Ashmead's statistics for that year show that 378 companies were floated with a total capital of £41,015,425 or \$198,924 \$11.25. Whew! it almost takes one's breath away, and to think that not one penny of this vast sum found its way to Nova Scotia.

These mining companies may be classified as follows: 10 for precious stones, 148 for gold, 21 for silver, 18 for lead, 13 for tin, 9 for copper, 4 for quicksilver, 1 for uranium, 35 for coal and iron, while 80 are exploration companies chiefly for gold. The mining attraction for 1889 was centered of course in the dark Continent, the number of companies floated on South African properties being 145 with a total capital of £16,651,975. To show the enormous profits made by vendors and promoters and the insufficiency of the working capital provided Mr. Ashmead gives the figures of the past three years. In 1889, of 138 companies taken as an example with nominal capital of £23,344,000, the total purchase price was £16,644,873, leaving only £5,327,127 working capital or 23 per cent. To this inadequacy of working capital the collapse of many promising ventures is largely due, and the evil is on the increase, the percentage in 1887 being 26 per cent. and in 1888 25 per cent.

The *Morning Post* in an article on "gold production" in 1889 states that the yield has been much greater than in the previous year. In Queensland alone the yield was £3,000,000 in value, while South Africa and South America more than double their last year's product. The celebrated Mount Morgan Mine, in Queensland, alone produced £1,827,000 in value, and other mines in the same district give promise of large future returns. The