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MINING.

QUEBEC MINING ROYALTIES.—The question of mining royalties is being very widely discussed throughout the Province of Quebec at present on account of the enactment made by the Provincial Legislature relative to the royalties or taxes to be collected from the mines in the Province. The particularly obnoxious clause is that specifying the amount or rate to be levied. The following is the clause referred to:—"From the first day of May, 1891, a royalty shall be levied in favor of the Crown upon every mine which is now, or may hereafter be, sold, conceded or otherwise alienated. Such royalty shall, unless otherwise determined by letters patent already granted, consist of a percentage of three per cent. of the merchantable value of the products of all mines and minerals." This is considered a high rate of royalty, and the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec have been petitioning the Dominion Government to disallow the Act. One of the reasons urged is that the rate is so high that in many cases it would take all the profits of the mine to pay the royalty. Another strong reason is that mining men will be averse to investing in the face of the tax, and so the mining industry of the Province will be retarded. In mines where the output is large, or in the case where all present profits are being turned into the development work, or again, in the case where the product is unsold for a considerable time, the payment of a royalty of two per cent. of the gross product becomes a very considerable burden. Accustomed as we are in Nova Scotia to a scale of royalty taxes varied according to the different kinds of mining products, an attempt to treat all alike seems to us very "ill advised legislation" even for Quebec. As we believe the royalty question will be revived in Nova Scotia before long, in the direction of a reduction of specific royalties, we would like our readers to favor us with their views as to the effects of the taxes in their special branches of mining and the directions in which they look for improvement. We intend to continue agitating for a more enlightened acknowledgment of the mining industries of the Province from the general body of the Legislature.

The following are the official returns for July so far received at the Mines office:—

District.	Mill.	Tons Qtz.	Ozs. Gold.
*Sherbrooke.....	Miners.....	35	5½
Oldham	Concord	5	3
Caribou.....	Moose River Co.....	200½	36½
† "	D. Touquoy.....	270	77
Uniacke.....	Phoenix.....	95	9
"	Withrow.....	27	33
Lake Catcha.....	Oxford	317	111½
15 Mile Stream.....	Egerton Co.....	375	246½
Mortared Gold, as returned by Thos. Barker from Scraggy Lake			8½
	* 9 tons quartz.		
	26 " dump.		
	† Surface soil and dump, 164 tons.		
	Quartz.....	106	"

SCRAGGY LAKE.—We notice that Thos. Barker, the prospector, has his name on the July list for 8½ ounces mortared gold. We trust that he is finding the long looked for loads of Scraggy Lake. This locality has several booms, but the difficulties encountered in getting supplies and machinery to the spot, and in doing prospecting work, have in a large measure prevented the opening up of a mining camp. The drift and indications found at different times have been very encouraging, and we trust Tom and his partners are on the track of a "big strike."

MOOSE RIVER.—Our veteran friend Mr. Touquoy is among the successful ones on the Mines office returns of gold for July. His July gold baby of 76½ ounces is as handsome as the others. Mr. Touquoy is still working both hard quartz and alluvial, and demonstrating the reality of mining and milling work where there is a large margin between cost of production and value of gold obtained, which shows itself in his case in a comfortable bank account.

ROBURITE.—Our roburite friends are winning good words from the Pictou Co. coal mines for their explosive. A late number of the *Stellarton Journal* gives a number of testimonials as to the efficacy of roburite and the growing favor it is receiving among the mines. With the march of chemical discovery the addition of business push will cause a commotion among the explosives companies that will benefit the mining people by a knocking down of prices. Fire away, gentlemen who are selling explosives, and let the competition commence!

A NEW FIND OF SPECULAR IRON ORE IN PICTOU CO.—A correspondent kindly furnishes us with the following item of interest:—"W. S. Williams, of Montague, has found a deposit of specular iron ore in Pictou Co." Our correspondent says the ore is of extra value, being a quality of ore that the Londonderry Iron Co. has had to import from outside the Province. Mr. Williams's find being only half a mile from railway, and of a quality that should sell readily to the Londonderry Iron Co., we trust that he has struck a good thing. Mr. Williams's friends will be pleased to hear of his good fortune.

COLORADO MINERAL PALACE.—We were much interested in reading an account in the *Canadian Mining Journal* of the structure erected in Pueblo, Colorado, for the exhibition of the minerals and mining products of the State of Colorado. The building, of brick and wood, is 243 feet in length