

in the Souris district, Province of Assiniboia, produced last winter about 14,000 tons for local consumption. The management is at present negotiating for the erection of a briquette making plant for which the lignites of that section are admirably adapted.

On the 15th inst. an effort by the Ontario and Quebec members of Parliament, to have the coal duty reduced to forty cents was vigorously opposed by the Nova Scotia representatives and proved abortive. An alternative suggestion that a reciprocity clause giving the Governor General in Council authority to place coal on the free list in the event of coal being placed on the free list by the United States Government, also fell to the ground. The duty must be maintained if the measure of prosperity that has hitherto attended our Nova Scotia coal mining is to be continued.

The appeal of the Bell's Asbestos Co., Ltd., and the Johnson's Co., Ltd., has been dismissed by the Supreme Court. This was an action *en bournage* taken in the Supreme Court for the district of Arthabaska, on the 9th February 1889, to establish the boundary between the two companies' asbestos properties. On 30th November, 1891, this court ordered the bournage to be made according to the claims of the Johnson's Company, and a surveyor was appointed to draw a line between the properties. This was done, and on 9th February, '92, the court homologated the report of the surveyor, and condemned the Bell's Company to pay \$7,145 in damages for the value of the asbestos which they had taken from that part of the property which the court decided belonged to the Johnson's Company. From this judgment the Bell's Company appealed to the court of Queen's bench, and the judgment as to the line was unanimously confirmed; but the damages allowed by the Superior Court were reduced to \$3,586.59. From this judgment the Bell's Company appealed to the Supreme Court, but the Johnson's Company made no cross appeal against the judgment reducing their damages which therefore is finally settled. By the judgment of the Supreme Court recently given the boundary line as determined by the Supreme Court of Arthabaska is sustained in favor of the contentions of the Johnson's Company.

The International Asbestos Mining & Manufacturing Company, Ltd., has commenced mining on its Denholm property, county of Ottawa, and about 20 tons of good fibre are ready for shipment. The Company has commenced manufacturing at its Newark works a new design in asbestos steam packing for which a Canadian patent has been taken out.

The Ingersoll-Sergeant Drill-Company is putting in another 20 inch air compressor at Westville for the Acadia Coal Company to convey power to a pump 4,000 feet down the slope. We understand the same company is

figuring on the necessary plant to enable Sydney mines to do away with the use of steam underground.

One R. R. McLeod, who was blackballed when a candidate for election to membership in the old Gold Miners' Association of Nova Scotia vents his spleen, in the *Critic*, against that organization, long since merged into the Mining Society, by objecting to their custom of an annual dinner, and calls it a piece of "recklessness that seems wedded to the business." The man who cannot see his neighbour loose the reins once a year without attributing to him habitual recklessness is of too narrow a gauge for success in this world. In other respects Mr. McLeod's letter has some very apposite remarks, particularly his reference to the folly of a managing director of a local mining company, in inaugurating the starting of a very flimsy mill (upon a very uncertain mine) with a public 'spread.' But that he should turn and expose the doings of his *quondam fidus achates*, Mr. Gilbert Parker, the very man who proposed McLeod's name for membership in the G. M. A. is astonishing, and we imagine will provoke an "et tu, Brute," from Mr. Parker. Nevertheless we are constrained to say that Mr. McLeod is probably writing of what he knows to be the truth.

Apres of this letter, it is unquestionably a fact, that nine out of every ten failures that have been made in gold mining ventures are to be attributed to ignorant or incompetent management. This is true not only of Nova Scotia but of the other provinces of our Dominion. And to capitalists who may come in with their money we would say "choose for your manager, not a commercial traveller, nor a farmer (who may think he's a miner), but a man who can show you proofs of his training and his ability and his success in mining heretofore; and then you will start with a fair chance."

The Pictou Development and Mining Co. owning some 385 acres in Renfrew District, N.S., has recently struck some very rich quartz in the McLeod lode of the Colonial block. Specimens shown resemble the rich pockets characteristic of the Montagu mines. Work is also being carried on in the Foundation lode of the Empress block of areas, and mechanics are now at work on a scheme for driving the mine pumps from the water power in the New Haven property. From present indications Renfrew is entering upon a period of prosperity which it has not known for many years.

The Columbia Gold Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., of Attleboro' and Providence, operating at Oldham, N.S., have lifted their pumps and closed their works after expending over \$50,000, and obtaining a gross yield of less than \$3,000. This mine was sold through the efforts of one Edward Whidden, and the REVIEW for October, 1892, commented upon the property at that time.

In the same district the Rhode Island Company now have their shaft on the Dunhack vein down to the 300 foot mark, and propose sinking another 150 feet.

Reports from the Montagu district are to the effect that quartz coming from bottom slopes are looking well, and have the appearance that usually precedes a batch of "nugget quartz." The Rand air drill plant has now been in commission for some weeks and is giving great satisfaction.

From Gold River we learn that prospecting was carried on to a late date last fall by Mr. T. N. Baker in a large block to the north of the main workings. Reports coming from the mines this spring indicate the speedy discovery of a large and paying lead at an early date.

At Lake Catcha the Oxford Gold Mining Co. under manager J. M. Reid, is working quietly but steadily, and the output of gold is increasing. From latest reports the yield for 1894 will be double that of 1893.

It is reported that a rich strike has been made on the property of Dr. Cogswell, in the same district.

The Harrigan Cove Gold Mining Co. Ltd. has suspended operations, and Edward Whidden has been relieved of the management.

The Wine Harbor district has been very quiet for some months, but a new impetus has been given by the starting of work on the old Eureka property, and the formation of a company with \$16,000, nominal capital to operate the mines formerly worked by Mr. H. T. Harding, of Truro. It is proposed to thoroughly treat the workings of the old and rich "plough" lead, on both sides of the large fault.

Little is doing at Goldenville. Mr. McNaughton is reported to have made a valuable find on the "Springfield" at the eastern end of the district, but the report lacks confirmation.

The consolidated properties, operated at Fifteen Mile Stream, are offered for sale by tender. It is believed that this is simply a preparatory step to reorganization, when, if the plan is successful, operations will be carried on as before.

The subject of our next portrait will be Mr. F. A. Halsey, M.E., manager of the Canadian Rand Drill Company, Sherbrooke, Que.

We are informed that an effort is likely to be made shortly to treat the tailings in Nova Scotia. There are immense quantities of tailings in different parts of the province that ought to pay well for treatment, and although we might not achieve anything like the wonderful results that have been achieved in South Africa, we ought to recover an appreciable quantity of gold which has been allowed to flow away owing to poorly