

the capitalists of their own and other countries who had been encouraged by earlier legislation to invest in mining enterprises, and whose expenditure had done so much to develop the resources of Nova Scotia. These members saw that a scandal had been created, though how grave it is they have not yet realized, and they had added to the bill a clause providing that leases could be obtained for a long term of years at a maximum rate of royalty if lessees agreed to surrender their present leases and pay a still higher royalty. This is all well, but it should be remembered that a government that has once repudiated a positive contract may do it again; it has no moral justice left to restrain it when apparent necessity again suggests a similar course. And our people who may contemplate investing in that country should clearly understand the inherent weakness of any contract made with a legislature possessing this undoubted power. But if our capitalists will venture into a country given to repudiation, they may, if they are careful, obtain protection by insisting to have in their lease a clause that will enable them in the event of dispute to go before the courts. The courts of Nova Scotia are without suspicion; but without express agreement the government of Nova Scotia will never allow its lessees to take them into court, and our people who venture their money down there should never forget this.

Although the legislature of Nova Scotia has passed this high-handed act, the lessees are not without hope of redress; they look for disallowance by the Governor-General, and they look to get a case into court on some technicality when the endeavor is made to collect the increased royalty. Pay quietly they will not; on this question they are united as they never have been before, and we expect to hear a great deal more on this struggle between vested rights and legislative power before a settlement is reached. —N. Y. Coal Journal, May 4.

THE SPEARMAN WATER CARTRIDGE.—In a paper read before a recent meeting of the Federated Institute of Colliery Managers, Mr. J. J. Speakman said:—There was no direction in which improvements had been greater or attention more fixed than in that of explosives. After carefully examining the results of the many tests that had been made, it seemed not too much to say that amongst them the water cartridge, as used with gunpowder, might be fairly classed amongst the safest types. The comparative ease and safety with which colliers could handle gunpowder (which for so long a time was almost the only explosive), its freedom from gases injurious to health, the completeness with which the water extinguished the flame when the cartridge was properly made and placed in the hole, and, above all, the generally correct estimate a collier could form of the quantity required in a shot so as to yield the largest quantity of round coal, seemed to point to gunpowder being reinstated in the estimation of mining engineers and becoming again almost the sole explosive used in mines. Many and various experiments had been made for the prevention of flame as produced from ordinary charges for bringing down coal to that of the blown-out shot, and to avoid its coming into contact with fire-damp and coal dust. The greatest advance towards safety in coal mining was due to the discovery made by Sir Frederick Abel of using explosives enclosed in a water shield, now known more particularly as the water cartridge. The lecturer was inclined to give Mr. Tonge, who read a paper on the subject before the Manchester Geological Society in 1880, the credit of the invention and use of tin cartridges, and although at first they were not successful, they were used successfully afterwards. Captain McNab took out his patent in 1876 for the paper-bag cartridge, which, when used in a proper manner did good work, but did not supply the long-felt want.

Mr. Miles Settle designed a tin cartridge, but it was rather cumbersome, and the difficulty of manipulating it militated against general adoption. Mr. Speakman now submitted a tin cartridge, which, he said, answered every purpose, and was probably the best water cartridge which had yet been before the notice of the public. It was simply worked, and thus enabled every miner to be in the position at any time to use it himself, without the assistance of the shot-firer. A series of tests were recently made at the Bedford Leigh Collieries, near Manchester, in the presence of a number of mining engineers connected with the neighbouring pits, as well as Mr. Saint, Her Majesty's inspector of mines. In these tests the explosive charge used in the cartridge was tonite, and four shots of four ounces each were fired in coal. The experiments were satisfactory, as there was an entire absence of flame, and the coal was brought down in excellent condition. The charge of explosive when in the cartridge lay in such a position as to be almost completely surrounded by water, and by thus placing the charge in the bottom of the cartridge it was claimed that there was a greater head of water for extinguishing any flame that might arise when the charge exploded.

In the discussion which followed, several gentlemen pointed out that it had been proved that under no circumstances could the flame from gunpowder be prevented by water.

A correspondent of the *Financial and Mining Record*, New York, suggests as follows:—"The paragraph taken from the *Butte (Montana) Mining Record*, suggests a novel method of placer mining, and opens up a rich field for enterprise.

We have all heard of the proneness of our English friends to the organization of stock companies (limited) such as 'the Universal Bread and Butter Distributing Company,' etc.; now, here is a chance to organize the 'HEN PLACER GOLD ACCUMULATING COMPANY.' Capital Stock, 100,000 hens. Subscriptions in hens one hen to the share.

There would be no question as to the rapid taking up of the stock. Every farmer's wife would subscribe from one to five hens, and if the product of the Montana hens is a criterion, what a big dividend would be forthcoming, to say nothing of the eggs laid to fill in time.

The Eastern chicken may not know any more about mines and mining than the average Eastern man but, under the instruction of the Montana contingent, would speedily acquire the knack.

It is true (and again characteristic of the Eastern capitalist) that you must kill them before they will pan out anything, but cold corpses of the feathered operatives could be sold to miners and chinamen on the ground and promote a replenishing fund.

I see big money in such an enterprise, and hope to interest some of our capitalists in it. I trust you see sufficient merit in the scheme to advocate it, for which the usual number of shares will be placed where they will do the most good—presumably, in the editor's back yard.

J. A. McConville, who lives on Montana street, killed one of his chickens for dinner, and on cleaning it was surprised to find a quantity of gold nuggets in the crop and gizzard. Having about thirty more chickens on hand, he began killing and examining them. In each of them he found a pro rata of nuggets, the total amount gathered from the thirty-one hens being \$387.50, an average of \$12.50 a head. The gold was sent to the State National Bank and pronounced 18 karats fine. Mr. McConville immediately bought fifty more chickens and turned them out on the gold fields in the vicinity of the hen-coop. As an experiment one of them was killed and \$2.80 in gold taken from its inside works, the result of a four day run. Mr. McConville has a virtual bonanza, and expects to be a millionaire before spring if the chickens hold out."

AFTER THE GRIP

And after typhoid fever, diphtheria, pneumonia, or other prostrating diseases, Hood's Sarsaparilla is just what is needed to revive the strength and vigor so much desired, and to expel all poison from the blood. It has had wonderful success in many such cases.

Hood's Pills act especially upon the liver, rousing it from torpidity to its natural duties, cures constipation and assists digestion.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.—WHOLESALE SELLING RATES.

Our Price Lists are corrected for each week by reliable merchants.

GROCERIES.

SUGARS.	
Cut Loaf.....	5 3/4
Granulated.....	4 1/2 to 4 3/4
Circle A.....	4 1/2
White Extra C.....	4 1/2
Standard.....	3 1/2 to 3 3/4
Extra Yellow C.....	3 1/2
Yellow C.....	3 1/4 to 3 1/2
TEA.	
Congou, Common.....	17 to 19
" Fair.....	20 to 23
" Good.....	25 to 29
" Choice.....	31 to 33
" Extra Choice.....	35 to 36
Oolong Choice.....	37 to 39
MOLASSES.	
Barbadoes.....	33
Demerara.....	35 to 38
Diamond N.....	48
Porto Rico.....	31
Cienfuegos.....	none
Trinidad.....	31
Antigua.....	31
Tobacco, Black.....	45 to 47
" Bright.....	47 to 65
BISCUITS.	
Pilot Bread.....	3.00
Boston and Thin Family.....	6 1/2
Soda.....	6 1/2
do in 1 lb boxes, 50 to case.....	7 1/2
Fancy.....	8 to 15

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Apples, per bbl., N. S.....	3.50 to 4.00
Oranges, Jamaica, brls.....	none
" Florida, per box.....	4.25
Lemons, per case.....	4.00 to 4.50
Cocoanuts, new per 100.....	5.00
Onions, New Egypt per lb.....	3 1/2
" Canadian, per lb.....	2 1/2 to 3 1/2
Dates boxes, new.....	5 1/2 to 6
Raisins, Valencia.....	8 1/2 to 6
Figs, Elms, 5 lb boxes per lb, new.....	10 to 11
" small boxes.....	9 to 10
Prunes, Stewing, boxes.....	6 to 7
Bananas.....	2.25 to 3.00

C. H. Harvey, 12 & 10 Sackville St.

FISH.

MACKEREL—		Ex Vessel.	Ex Store
Extras.....	00.00		22.00
No. 1.....	00.00		19.00
" 2 large.....	00.00		15.00
" 2.....	00.00		12.00
" 3 large, Reamed.....	0.00		9.00
" 3, Reamed.....	0.00		8.00
" 3 large, Plain.....	0.00		8.00
" 3 Plain.....	0.00		7.00
Small.....	0.00		6.00
HERRING.			
No. 1 C. B. July.....	0.00		5.50
" 1 Fall Split.....	0.00		4.25
" 1 Fall Round.....	0.00		3.75
" 1 Labrador.....	0.00		6.25
" 1 Georges Bay.....	0.00		2.25
" 1 Bay of Islands.....	0.00		3.50
Alwives, No. 1.....	0.00		5.50
SALMON.			
No. 1, April.....	00.00		16.00
No. 2, April.....	00.00		14.00
" 3.....	00.00		13.00
Small.....	00.00		
CODFISH.			
Hard C. B.....	0.00		6.00
Western Shore.....	0.00		5.75
Bank.....	0.00		4.75
Bay.....	0.00		4.25
Newfoundland.....	0.00		none
Haddock.....	0.00		3.50
Hake & Western.....	0.00		3.75
Hake.....	0.00		3.00 to 3.25
Pollock.....	0.00		3.00
Hake Sounds, per lb.....	12 1/2		
Cod Oil, bergal.....	39		32c.

BREADSTUFFS

Markets are unchanged here from steady. Corn and oats are considerably dearer West, which may affect the prices of both cornmeal and oatmeal—these are low at present. In fact everything in the food and provision line is cheap, lower in point of fact than for a year or two past.

FLOUR.	
Manitoba Highest Grade Patent.....	5.75 to 6.10
High Grade Patents.....	5.10 to 5.20
Good 90 per cent. Patents.....	4.90 to 5.00
Straight Grade.....	4.80
Good Seconds.....	4.40
Graham Flour.....	4.60 to 4.75
Oatmeal.....	4.35 to 4.45
" Rolled.....	4.40
Kiln Dried Cornmeal.....	2.9 to 3.00
" In Bond.....	2.9c
Rolls Wheat.....	5.55
Wheat Bran, per ton.....	21.00 to 21.70
Middlings.....	23.50
Shorts.....	22.50
Cracked Corn " including bags.....	35.00
Ground O. Cake, per ton.....	36.00 to 38.00
Moulse.....	24.00 to 28.00
Split Peas.....	4.10
White Beans, per bushel.....	1.45 to 1.50
Port Barley, per barrel.....	3.90 to 4.10
Canadian Oats, choice quality, new.....	41 to 42
P. E. Island Oats.....	41 to 45
Hay.....	16.00 to 18.00

J. A. CHIPMAN & Co., Head of Central Wharf, Halifax, N. S.

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Ex. Mess, duty paid.....	12.50 to 13.50
" Am. Plate.....	13.00 to 13.50
" Ex. Plate.....	13.50 to 14.00
Pork, Mess, American.....	14.00 to 15.00
" American, clear.....	17.50 to 18.00
" P. E. I. Mess.....	14.50 to 15.00
" P. E. I. Thin Mess.....	14.00 to 14.50
" Prime Mess.....	11.50 to 12.50
Lard, Tub and Pails, P. E. Island.....	12
" American.....	10 to 11
Hams, P. E. I., green.....	9

Prices are for wholesale lots only, and are liable to change daily.

BUTTER AND CHEESE

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints.....	25
" " in Small Tubs.....	23
" Good, in large tubs, new.....	22 to 24
" Store Packed & oversalted.....	15
Canadian Township, new.....	22 to 24
" Western.....	20
" " old.....	20
Cheese, Canadian.....	12
" Antigonish.....	12 1/2

SALT.

Factory Filled.....	\$1.10
Fine Liverpool, bag, from store.....	60
Liverpool, 44 lb.....	1.50
" Adoat.....	none
Capit.....	none
Turks Island.....	none
Lisbon.....	none
Coarse W. I.....	none
Trapan.....	1.50
" Adoat.....	none