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## THE MINERALS AND MINES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

So diversified and so numerous are mineral deposits and mining operations in the Province of Nova Scotia that it is out of the question within reasonable limits to present a complete description of even a few of the leading enterprises.

Realizing this fully, it was early determined that the only practicable method of attack was to publish a selected and timely series of articles dealing mainly with late developments. It is proposed, further, to rearrange, modify, and add to this material at a later date with a view to embodying it in pamphlet form. But before expatiating further on these plans it is appropriate to have a look over the mining field of Nova Scotia generally.

#### GOLD.

Since the year 1862 Nova Scotian gold mines and prospects have yielded about \$20,000,000 in gold. The recorded production for the year 1862 is just about equal to that for 1911. This fact, if one studies closely the history of the industry, is susceptible of favourable explanation. But that explanation, to be complete, must embrace the several physical, commercial, and human factors that have combined to militate against the industry. Here we need not debate the question at length. It suffices to state our deliberate conviction that there is ample reward awaiting the unprejudiced and competent investor in the gold regions of Nova Scotia. There are yet large areas of unprospected territory; and to correct the abuse due to long tenure of unworked areas, an Act was passed last May providing for revoking leases or licenses of such areas. This gives much freer scope to the prospector, and, incidentally, indicates a spirit of progressiveness on the part of the Government.

#### COAL.

Coal mining has been for long and still is the most important branch of the mining industry. Before 1894, the annual sales of coal in the Province never exceeded 2,000,000 tons. In the year 1893, the Dominion Coal Company commenced operations. Since then, with the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company as a later heavy producer, the annual sales have gone up by leaps and bounds, until during this current year they promise to exceed 6,500,000 tons; while the gross production may approach 7,500,000 tons.

The Acadia Coal Company, the Inverness Railway and Coal Company, the Maritime Coal, Railway & Power Company, and several smaller concerns, contri-