

The Mining World, June 20, 1908.—Henry A. Mather writes in this number of the mining and metallurgical industry in Georgia. The hydraulic gold of Georgia is generally so flaky that more than 50 per cent. escapes the riffles. When the sandy quartz veins are stamped and amalgamated less than 50 per cent. is saved. The mines generally credit the hydraulic dirt with \$3 to the yard, though some of it showed over \$100.

The deepest shaft in Georgia is 160 feet and the total gold extraction from 1825 to date is about \$10,000,000, of which 80 per cent. has been obtained from hydraulic operations. No dredge has yet been operated in the country although dredging would probably be profitable.

Mining property is difficult to purchase at a fair valuation. Some of the older miners use blanket boxes as auxiliaries, to the riffles and there are reports of savings of over \$60 per yard from the finer vegetable mold which necessarily churns up into silt and escapes the riffles.

The Colliery Guardian, June 12, 1908.—The Norton Hill Colliery accident is commented upon in the recent number of the Colliery Guardian. The investigation following the explosion brought out much conflicting evidence. The question as to whether the explosion was due to coaldust, to firedamp, or to both of these agencies, could hardly be settled. There is yet much difference of opinion amongst investigators. But "the official view that because some kinds of coaldust may produce an explosion, therefore all coaldust is to be regarded as dangerous, and precautions are to be taken accordingly, is without doubt the safest; but until there is more unanimity upon the coaldust theory, these precautions will not be taken in all cases, especially while any discretion is left to the management as to what is to be considered a dry and dusty mine."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Mr. W. K. McNeil, manager of the Canadian Laboratories, Toronto, was united in marriage on June 17, to Miss Welsh of Markham, Ont.

Mr. J. J. Harpell, business manager of the "Canadian Mining Journal," is visiting Great Britain on business. He will be absent throughout July.

Mr. J. F. Black of Sudbury, Ont., visited Toronto on June 12. Mr. Black is the original discoverer of the Moose Mountain iron ore deposits.

Mr. S. Cohen, manager of the Crown Reserve mine, Cobalt, Ont., was injured recently in a runaway accident. Mr. Cohen's right shoulder was broken.

Mr. H. H. Sutherland, late of Haileybury, has returned from Rawhide. Since last February Mr. Sutherland has been working in that new camp. He has now secured an advantageous lease on a claim and is opening the property at a rapid rate.

Mr. W. Fleet Robertson, the provincial mineralogist of British Columbia, is exploring the Finlay River district. He will be absent two and a half or three months. He will examine the extent and value of the reported discoveries of placer gold at and around McConnell creek. On both trips Mr. Robertson will, by means of wide detours, explore the country. He will report upon the desirability and probable location of roads.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor,

"Canadian Mining Journal."

Dear Sir:—In your issue of June 1st, Mr. F. Hille makes some criticisms of two papers read by me before the Canadian Mining Institute, to which I desire to make a brief reply. Criticisms of such papers are welcomed by the Institute and by the writers, and if more written ones were made the Institute's Journal would gain in value. Such criticisms should, however, be of the facts given, or of the inferences drawn, and here Mr. Hille lamentably fails. To shorten this note I will not reply to his criticism of my paper on "The Iron Ores of Ontario," leaving that to Professor Leith, who is charged with the same error as myself.

As to my paper on "The Origin of Deposits of Pyrites" (Jour. Can. Min. Inst. X, 118-123, and Can. Min. Jour. Nov., 1907), Mr. Hille has done me the doubtful honor of reading it so carelessly as to be unacquainted with its contents. For instance, he says: "He attributes the origin of a large number of the pyrites deposits to sedimentation, and refers for support to Beck, Kemp and others." On the contrary, Beck and Kemp give no support whatever to my thesis, and I cited their two recent books on Ore Deposits to show current opinion on the topic.

Again Mr. Hille writes, "I fail to find any explanation as to what kind of sedimentation he ascribes their occurrence." Let me call his attention to the following quotations. "The third theory (sedimentary beds) assumes the precipitation of iron sulphide from solution as a bed at the bottom of shallow water. Other chemical and mechanical sediments occur above and below such beds." (page 1 pamphlet edition). "The pyrites in the iron ranges can be satisfactorily accounted for as a chemical precipitate" page 10. "We conclude, then, that for a number of our Ontario pyrites beds the origin has been one of chemical sedimentation" page 11, and further on pages 8, 9, and 10 details are given of how sedimentation was effected.

Again Mr. Hille says that I attribute to the pyrites deposits near Schreiber a sedimentary origin. On the contrary I wrote, "Near Schreiber. . . . is a deposit of a different character," and specifically mentioned that "the ore is associated with an eruptive diabase, and is considerable mixed with pyrrhotite carrying small amounts of nickel and copper."

I can only account for these mistakes by a very casual reading of my paper. There are other mistakes in his letter of a different class.

For example, Mr. Hille writes:

"There is no doubt that the Helen ore is to a large extent an oxidation product, from pyrites and siderite, but these minerals are not of the same age as the Animikie rocks, as has been repeatedly asserted, but date from the time of the greenstone eruptions, which occurred after the Animikie had been laid down."

I know of no competent geologists who asserts that these minerals are of the same age as the Animikie rocks. On the contrary such men as Van Hise, Leith, Coleman, Merriam and others agree in considering the pyrites and siderite of Keewatin age. Mr. Hille alone asserts that they are of post-Animikie age and we may reasonably ask for some proof of this amazing statement. I may note in passing that pebbles of pyrites and siderite from the Helen formation occur in the Lower Huronian conglomerate which much antedates the post-Animikie eruptive greenstones.