

NOVA SCOTIA'S IRON DEPOSITS.

"At a meeting of the mining committee of the board of trade it was decided to request the Dominion government to assist in an investigation of the extent and value of the iron ore deposits of Nova Scotia. The big steel companies have spent a good deal of money in investigations of this kind, and their information is probably accurate, but what the mining committee desires is that this information should be general, not the exclusive possession of two companies. The idea is that the government should send an expert from the Dominion geological survey, who would spend a season in this province and become thoroughly acquainted with the iron deposits, their extent and value, and give the public the benefit of his investigations."

Commenting on the foregoing from the Halifax Herald, one who has had an eye on Halifax and its methods thus breaks forth in a letter to the RECORD

"O little town of Halifax,

How still, how still we see thee lie;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,

The silent stars go by."

Philip Brooks?

"To drop poetry and not quite forget the fable of the belly and the members, is Halifax ever happy except when begging? Is it not already over-papfed by the governments? Is it not a distributing point only because of its magnificent harbour, rather than a producer; and is it not a subject of general complaint at industrial centres that it is a vampire; that its citizens busy themselves with other peoples' affairs; that its professionals organize and boom all kinds of mines, and lumbering schemes, often to the detriment of these interests; that they get more than their proper share of crown lands, mining areas and timber limits, of provincial exhibitions, government drills, and other privileges?"

Why does the Halifax Board of Trade plume itself on doing more for the public weal than is done by others? Have not Sydney, North Sydney, New Glasgow, Pictou and other towns given bonuses for the establishment of iron steel and other works in "addition" to merely petitioning the government for assistance? asks Mr. James T. Burchell. Outside its members, has not much information, as to the extent and value of the iron ores of Nova Scotia been gathered in various official and other publications of the last seventy years? What of the special reports by Hon. Gilpin and others of the exhibition committees, of the provincial department of mines, and the mines branch of the geological survey? Do not the mining society of Nova Scotia and the provincial museum disseminate just such in-

formation? asks the Hon. Robert Drummond. Has not the Maritime Mining Record recently published several articles on our iron ores?

Are not reports issued from year to year, by the Department of Mines which give the statistics of production of mines at work; on deposits proved to be of commercial importance, as at Londonderry, Bridgeville, Torbrook, and Nietaux, Whycoomagh, Brookfield, Newton Mills, Selma, Goshen, Arisaig, Barachois, Boisdale, Clement-port, and other places?

Might not the "mining committee" define a little more clearly what it wants? Is it information on the iron deposits not at present worked, the results of private investigations on areas recently explored by certain companies, which should, the committee appears to think, be made public for the use of others? Or does it desire to know to what extent iron mining in Nova Scotia can be expanded, or the ores of the province come into competition with those from Wabana, and other sources? Does not Halifax need a few more Captains of industry?"

PUMPING PLANT FOR COMSTOCK MINES

One of the most important deals in mining machinery ever made on the Pacific Coast was closed in San Francisco recently. This was the awarding of the contract for the permanent pumping plant which is to drain the group of middle mines upon the Comstock lode to the great vertical depth of 3000 feet through the Ward shaft. The successful bidders were the International Steam Pump Company of New York, whose works are in Harrison, New Jersey, and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The contract price is about \$80,000.

The contract calls for two first motion, electrically driven Express pumps, each of the units to have a capacity for lifting 1600 gallons of water per minute, against a pressure equivalent to a height of 1500 feet, or from the 3000 foot level up to the level of the south lateral branch of the Sutro tunnel. Each pump is to be driven by a 600-horse-power, slow speed induction motor. The \$80,000 contract just awarded includes besides 600 feet of 16 inch pump column pipe, (the Ward Shaft Association already having 900 feet on hand) a travelling crane for the pump station; an automatic oiling system; a small air compressor for filling the air chambers, a small vacuum for discharging the vapor from the suction chamber; all the piping and valves of every description for completing the installation and a complete set of duplicate parts of the pumps.

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