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A. M. FRASER,
MANAGER OF THE CRITIC, HALIFAX, N. S.

MINING.

The McGuire, Nelson & Co. property at Melaga, is yielding rich ore, and soon the steam whistle will be heard in that district.

The mining people of Melrose, Guys., have been treated to a flying visit by a Mr. Symonds, an English mining expert from London, who has been examining different properties there, it is said in the interest of some English capitalists. It is to be hoped satisfactory results will follow.

Prospecting for gold is being conducted in the vicinity of Ardoise Hill, Hants Co., by a Mr. William Murray, Mr. Prince, of Truro, and others. It is said very good showings have been made. In the same vicinity a rather large deposit of antimony ore has been discovered. As it has not been sufficiently developed to give any pronounced opinion, further comment must for the present be postponed. The property has been bonded, and will soon be in shape for development, which will be undertaken at the earliest hour. The indications of a good property are apparent.

Mr. F. L. Downend is at the Queen Hotel, Halifax, with a model of a concentrator called the Common Sense Concentrator, which is, in effect, on the old Mexican Arastra principle, with pan attachments, and discharge pipes and agitator, &c. The object of it is to save all possible gold from the tailings of any mill in actual operation, or it can be operated as a separate concern in handling over the tailings of the old crushings of mills in past years. Mr. Downend has much faith in his invention, and thinks the tailings of the Nova Scotian mines would pay handsomely with this machine. Judging from the looks of the model, and Mr. Downend's explanations, it would pay well to put this machine in operation. Mr. Downend will sell out his right to any company to manufacture, operate, and sell the same on a royalty basis, or sell outright for cash. Here is a good chance for capitalists who may feel inclined to speculate.

NEW BRUNSWICK MINING ITEMS.—Editor Critic,—I have been roaming considerably of late, with not much chance for corresponding. Mining matters in New Brunswick are not very brisk at present. Owners of manganese properties and other metals hope for a satisfactory boom a little later on.

The developments at what is known as "The Globe" manganese deposit in Dutch Valley District are still satisfactory. The owners are very much encouraged indeed. A Mr. F. J. Alley, of Bar Harbor, Maine, is the principal promoter of this mine, and the development operations have been done under the superintendence of Mr. W. N. Gould, who has had extensive mining experience in this province as well as across the line.

The work at Mineral Vale, in Albert County, is progressing satisfactorily, and some English capitalists are to come out from London or Liverpool and have a look over the property. Messrs. Breeze and Robinson, of St. John, N. B., are largely interested in the matter.

At the village of Albert, (formerly known as Hopewell Corner), mining operations have been for some time in progress, under direction of a Mr. Seargent, of Boston. It is understood machinery will shortly be placed in position, if not already done, and that owners anticipate good results. It is said that quite a remunerative amount of gold is had from the ore which is being extracted.

The manganese property at Petitcodiac, I am told, is showing up very fairly. The manager, Mr. Brown, was very ill some little time ago, but, I presume, is gaining ground again. There seems to be an impression that this will develop into a good paying property.

In Hillsboro', or near there, operations are being conducted under the direction of Mr. Pendergrast of Truro. It is said to be some kind of a mineral paint—umber, ochre, or something of that kind. Not knowing correct particulars I will not endeavor to be too positive on the matter.

I do not know that I can take up more of your valuable space at present, and can only express the wish that your Nova Scotian correspondents would be more confiding, and let the mining world know what is going on in their different localities. I regret there has been no concerted action by mining men of your province to try and remodel, or improve, the mining laws of Nova Scotia. Perhaps the present session may develop something new. For the present I will weary you no further, and remain, as usual,

Yours,

CALEDONIA, QUEENS CO.

Dear Critic,—In your paper of 11th inst. I notice a reference to the Malaga gold areas, in which the Parker & Douglas Co. are interested, and, knowing the interest you take in mining affairs, I propose giving you a short description of this now well-known property.

The discoverers were two young men of Brookfield—Hubert Spidle and Robbie Hunt—who located their claim in June last. The "find" created considerable excitement here at that time, and applications were soon filed for every available acre of land in the vicinity of Malaga Lake, some folks going so far as to take up areas, which, when located, were found to be in the lake.

Shortly after applying for their prospecting license, Spidle and Hunt bonded the property to Nelson F. Douglass for \$15,000, and Nelson Douglass had bargained with Philadelphia parties for \$20,000, when two neighbors of Spidle and Hunt appeared on the ground, and laid claim to six of their fifty-two areas. The matter was referred to the Commissioner of Mines, and this proved fatal to the sale, as the Philadelphians declined to buy the property with a prospective lawsuit. In due time the Commissioner decided in favor of Spidle and Hunt, and his decision has just been confirmed.