

MINING.

The Commissioner of Works and Mines laid his financial statement before the House on Wednesday last. Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Browne, the accountant of the department, we are enabled to lay the following interesting summary before our readers, which compares the business of the past year with the two previous years, showing a most gratifying increase in the revenues of the province derived from mining. There is a large increase in the amount of coal mined this year over the two previous years, and judging from the royalties paid, the yield of gold this year will be nearly the same as last.

Receipts from "Coal Royalty" for different counties.

Cape Breton.	Cumberland.	Pictou.	Other Counties.	Totals.	Year.
\$44,210 80	\$30,534 90	\$26,894 38	\$16 45	\$101,656 53	1886.
64,066 82	31,391 82	24,211 52	119,670 16	1887.
63,608 45	28,309 36	32,853 75	4 50	124,776 06	1888.

By above it will be seen that while Cape Breton and Cumberland's Royalties are not so large as last year's, that of Pictou has increased largely.

Statement of the amount received from various sources as revenue by the Department of Mines for the years 1886, 1887, and 1888:—

1886.	1887.	1888.
Prospecting Lic. \$ 8,896 72	Prospecting Lic. \$ 10,567 66	Prospecting Lic. \$ 9,571 49
Rents (Leases) 3,794 00	Rents (Leases) 4,268 00	Rents (Leases) 4,720 50
Gold Royalty 8,530 16	Gold Royalty 9,420 77	Gold Royalty 8,612 41
Lic. to Search 2,980 00	Lic. to Search 2,560 00	Lic. to Search 3,940 00
Coal Royalty 101,656 53	Coal Royalty 119,670 16	Coal Royalty 121,776 06
Lic. to Work 500 00	Lic. to Work 1,025 00	Lic. to Work 1,275 00
Renewals of Coal Leases 479 50	Renewals of Coal Leases & Fees 945 70	Fees 371 03
\$126,856 91	\$148,457 29	\$153,266 49

RAWDON.—The success of the Gould Northrup Mine, at Rawdon, has been almost phenomenal. The last brick amounted to 179 ozs, which was crushed from about 70 tons, and represented but 20 days work. The mine is owned by Messrs. Northrup, Dimock and Smith. They have now three shafts sunk, one 110, one 60, and one 40 feet deep, but find the richest gold in the 60 ft. shaft. They are working along the lead (which runs north and south) for over 500 feet.

GOLD.—A new find of a very promising nature has been made at Beaver Harbor. The veins are three in number, and one of them is over 3 feet wide showing gold freely. Areas in that locality are being taken up rapidly at the Mines' Office.

At Meat Cove (C. B.) another new find is reported, and a number of parties are concerned in developing it.

In Gold River District a sale is reported for \$28,000 of the Hiseler block.

ARDOISE HILL.—There seems to be a veritable boom in this district, and, from what we can gather without a personal inspection, we should say that the statement is well justified. So far gold has been found for a distance of two miles East and West by a mile wide in a belt of slate, with numerous leads of quartz running through it. One of them is reported to be five feet wide, and others are of varying widths down to a few inches. Within the past three months some 1200 areas have been taken up, and Mr. Pushie, Mining Expert, has done considerable prospecting on the Davis Beech areas, in which he is interested. They number some 164 areas, and a shaft has been sunk upon them 20 feet in depth, a tunnel run into the hill 25 feet, and several cross cuts from 30 to 40 feet wide cut across the metals, and gold is reported as having been found in all cases. Mr. Pushie is going to put up a 25 stamp mill at once, and push mining operations with his usual vigor. Large belts of low grade ore in slate formation should prove very profitable to work, and we trust that Ardoise Hill is going to prove that Nova Scotia contains as lasting and profitable gold mines as are to be found.

EAST CHEZZETCOOK.—Mr. Geo. W. Jones, wholesale stationer, while visiting East Chezzetcook on business, amused himself while waiting for the coach by breaking up boulders on the roadside. Near the Catholic chapel he broke a small boulder and obtained as fine a specimen of gold quartz as one would wish to see. He informed the manager of the Oxford Mine, who covered the surrounding property with licenses, and afterwards Mr. Jones took up some adjoining areas for himself. Should the lead be found from which the boulder came, it should prove rich.

SALMON RIVER.—The Dufferin Mine is to be sold on the 14th March, and thus before another issue of THE CRITIC this great mine should have changed hands. Would that we had the means to purchase it.

Mr Cook, the indefatigable member for Queens, is pushing the Government to have Queens Co. proclaimed a gold district, and for the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner. As from the returns Queens County produced last year over \$100,000 in gold, and paid a large sum for prospecting licenses and leases, there is no doubt but Mr. Cooke's request will be complied with.

Queens County items condensed from the *Gold Hunter*:—

NORTH BROOKFIELD.—Mr. W. C. Gray, the new manager of the Brookfield Mine, has arrived.

MOLEGA MINES.—The new shaft and engine house on the Nine Boulder lead is nearing completion, and will be in operation next week.

The Nugget lead has been opened up in three places, and, although only three inches wide, promises to be very productive, the quartz at present obtained milling one ounce to the ton.

ASBESTOS.—From the *Canadian Journal of Commerce* we copy the

following:—"Asbestos is one of the most wonderful and useful mineral productions known, and it is a curious fact that the largest and best deposits in the world are contained in a small area in the Eastern Townships, and particularly in the Black Lake and Thetford districts. The output has been shipped for some years to the United States and to Europe, the yield has been ample and the supply is believed to be inexhaustible. Prices are fully 10 per cent. higher than last year and the demand is increasing. It is thought that the famous Italian mines, which are controlled by English capital, are getting worked out, it is certain at least that the managers are large buyers of Canadian asbestos. It has been largely an experimental business up to the present, so far as its use in the manufactures is concerned, and many lines are covered by patents in the hands of what may be termed specialty firms. It is applied to numerous staple uses, as steam packing for engines, mill board, fire-proof building felt, theatre curtains and scenery, pipe coverings, also in the shape of cement and for chemical purposes.

Reported recent discoveries in the United States have turned out to be a myth. Samples of brittle, flinty stuff were sent on here and proved to be of no value whatever. The Lake Superior district may develop something in time; but so far the most practicable deposits are those in this Province. It is also thought that discoveries may be made in Russia. In the days of Charlemagne, we are told that asbestos was woven into table cloths, napkins and other fine fabrics, but no modern machinery has been invented which will weave the fibre sufficiently fine. There is no reason to doubt, however, that present difficulties may be overcome, when a new and extensive field for asbestos will be opened up. So far the Canadian mines have not been worked below thirty feet, and it is the general impression that the greater the depth the better the grade."

A valuable discovery of this mineral is reported from Catalone in Cape Breton, owned or controlled by a clergyman living near there and Mr. Fielding of this City. The formation and size of veins seems to indicate that it is as good as that of the Quebec districts. It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the line of the Sydney and Louisburg Railway and quite near to a shipping port. It is said the deposit is wide spread, and at a depth of a few feet that some of the fibres are about five or six inches long.

The Bell Asbestos Co. shares went from £1 to £5 in London recently, and 23½ per cent. dividend was paid by them for last year.

We are every year learning new things showing the great value of N. S. as a mineral producing country.

EXTENSIVE GOLD MINE FOR SALE.

To be sold at public auction by the undersigned, at the Merchants' Exchange, in the City of Halifax, on Thursday, the Fourteenth day of March next, at twelve o'clock, noon.

That extensive, valuable, and well-equipped GOLD MINE, known as the Dufferin Gold Mine, situated on the Atlantic coast, about ninety miles east of said City. Daily mail from Halifax Telegraph office at Salmon River, four miles from the works. Salmon River harbor never freezes, and is safe and easy of access. The Mine embraces 342 areas, each 150x250 feet, all in one block. The entire area measures fifteen hundred feet in width across, and eight thousand five hundred and fifty feet along the lodes. The leases have nearly fourteen years to run, and can at any time be renewed for a period of twenty-one years, upon payment of two dollars per area. Within this area is a belt of veins dipping on each side of an annual. They have been found, by tests made on the surface, to extend upwards of 4,000 feet. The ore has been partially removed to a depth of 201 feet over a distance of about 700 feet, and to a depth averaging about 70 feet over an additional 1,000 feet in length or thereabouts. The veins are of various widths, the largest averaging about 10 feet of gold quartz.

The Mine was discovered in the autumn of 1880, but was not worked to any extent until the autumn of 1881. It has yielded up to the end of November 31,012 ounces of gold from 61,508 tons of quartz, according to the sworn returns made to the Mines Office. The gold can be produced at a cost which will leave a very handsome margin of profit.

The Mine is operated by machinery worked by water power, that power being transmitted by a line of wire rope running from the water wheel to the Mine—a distance of about 4,750 feet—and lying parallel to the outcrop of said veins, at a distance therefrom of about 60 feet. The Salmon River crosses the property twice. It supplies the hoisting and pumping power, and the same water is afterwards used to drive the crusher. The latter has 38 stamps, and there is ample water power to operate three times that number. Sixty stamps can be operated with present machinery. Of the 120 horse-power existing for pumping and hoisting only about twenty five is used. There are about 700 acres of well timbered and well watered land owned with the Mine. This partly covers the areas, and where it does not immediately adjoin them. It is also provided with a steam plant to operate hoisting gear and pumps in case of accident to the transmission power, a sawmill, sufficient for the requirements of the property, a tramway from the Mine to the crusher for carrying quartz, and stables, offices and boarding houses sufficient to accommodate a large number of employees.

The Mine is owned, and has been operated by a partnership, and, owing to the death of one of the principal owners, it has to be sold to enable his estate to be settled. A good title will be given.

Terms, ten per cent. cash; balance within thirty days from day of sale. The deposit to be forfeited in case the purchaser fails to complete the purchase within that time. Further particulars can be had on reference to

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