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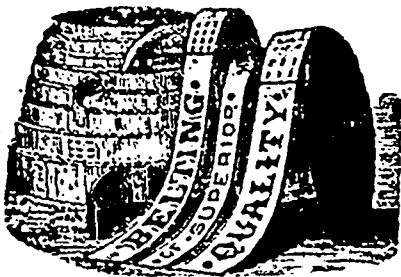
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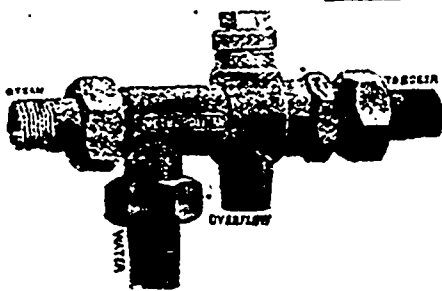
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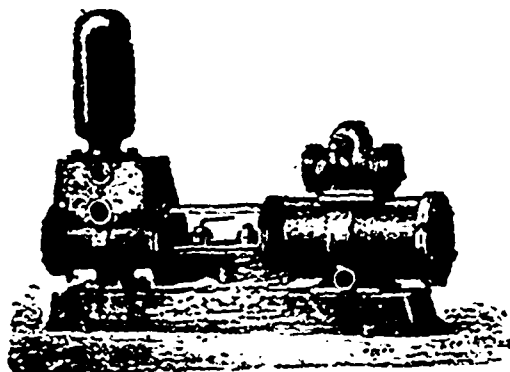
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AUSTEN BROTHERS,
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MINING.

We purpose within the next few weeks extending and improving the mining department of THE CRITIC, and with that end in view have engaged as one of our staff a gentleman who is thoroughly conversant with coal mining, as well as the mining of other minerals. When our representative visits the coal mining centres of Pictou, Cumberland and Cape Breton we trust that those interested will see to it that he is well received and that he be given access to all the available information required.

MILLIPSIGATE—The yield of gold from this district for February and March, principally from small trial tests, was very satisfactory, as it averaged over an ounce and a quarter per ton. The total was 25½ tons quartz crushed yielding 30½ ounces gold. Three tons crushed from the property of the Millipsigate Gold Mining Company yielded 15 ounces, the balance of the returns being from the Hebb et al, Lawson et al and Lacy properties. These preliminary returns are most encouraging, and indicate what the district is capable of when the various mines are worked on an extended scale.

We hope our mining friends in all parts of the Province will bear in mind that we are always anxious to receive the latest authentic news from the different mining camps, and that they will govern themselves accordingly. THE CRITIC is doing valuable work in advertising our mineral resources in all important parts of the world, and those directly benefitted, viz., the mine owners, miners and prospectors of the Province, should help along the good work by keeping us supplied with news. Lengthy articles are not required, although these are most acceptable, what we want being simply a postal card each week from every mining camp, giving a synopsis of the progress of the mine now areas being prospected, the general outlook, &c. Any miner can send us this information, which need not take up ten minutes of his time per week in preparing, as what we need are facts, no matter how crudely stated. We should like every mining reader to consider this appeal for news as directly made to himself, and that he determine without delay to furnish us with a weekly postal as asked for above. If we can only secure correspondents in every camp our mining columns will team with news, and every section of the Province will be equally benefitted. We wish to do equal justice to all, but if only a few camps have men enterprising enough to profit by our offer, of course these camps will reap an undue share of the benefits that are sure to flow from the free publication of their resources. Our fair readers should also do their share, and if husbands, fathers or lovers are too busily employed to write, they at least should find time to send along the weekly quota of news.

The Engineering and Mining Journal of New York in its issue of April 19th has such a valuable article on the Coxheath Copper Mines and the mineral resources of Cape Breton that we reproduce it in extenso, only omitting the half page illustration of the surface improvements which adds considerably to the effectiveness of the original article:—

"The mineral resources of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, are attracting the attention of mining men and capitalists to a greater degree than formerly, and as the island has the apparent basis for large mineral wealth and a healthful climate, and is under a reliable and stable government, and is distant only three days by sea from New York, it would seem to merit even greater attention than has yet been given to it.

Sir Wm. Dawson, Prof. H. Fletcher, Edwin Gilpin, Jr., M. E., Inspector of Mines of Nova Scotia, and other reliable authorities, give the prominent geological formations of the island to be: 1. Pre-Cambrian or Laurentian, including the felsile and Crystalline limestone series. 2. Lower Silurian. 3. Devonian. 4. Carboniferous, including middle coal formation, millstone grit, gypsiferous series, limestone, and productive lower coal formation. The formation contains deposits of coal, iron, copper and limestone, a most valuable combination, all in a small district, surrounded and interlaced with deep water facilities, and located so that the products of the mines and furnaces can be cheaply transported either to Europe or America, as demand and tariff lines may warrant.

Coal.—The proved coal veins of the carboniferous formation of Cape Breton contain bituminous coals of excellent steam or coking qualities; they are located on the eastern coast from Cow Bay to Cape Dauphin, the principal mines being connected by railroads with the two good harbors of Sydney and Louisbourg. Other coal districts at Habitant Bay and along the west shore at Chimney Corner and Broad Cove promise well, but have not yet had extensive development: it is however, certain that the coal production can be easily increased to meet any possible local demand. The output of the working mines for 1889 was about 800,000 tons. An average analysis of Cape Breton coals gives: Fixed carbon, 58-74; volatile combustible matter, 37-26; moisture, 0-75; ash, 3-25; sulphur, —.

Limestone—Important in connection with coal for smelting operations is cheap and good limestone, and immense deposits of it exist contiguous to the shore at various points, especially between the two arms of Sydney Harbor. Analyses of samples from this latter deposit made by Dr. E. D. Peters, Jr., M. E., give: Carbonates of lime and magnesia, 95-3; silica, 2-16; water, 2-1.

Iron.—The iron deposits of Cape Breton are principally in the lower silurian formations and are mostly of red hematite, they are numerous, extensive and valuable, though as yet they have been but slightly explored owing to the fact that the too liberal mining laws of the Province have enabled the native owners of the claims to lock up large tracts which they hold at high figures instead of making reasonable combination with capital for their development. Hon. E. T. Moseley's iron areas near East Bay are a fair sample of these deposits. The ore there gives the following analysis: Peroxide of iron 82.75 (metallic iron 57.93); silica, 12-80; water, 1-12; alumina, 1-55; lime, 1-20.