



# AUSTEN BROS.

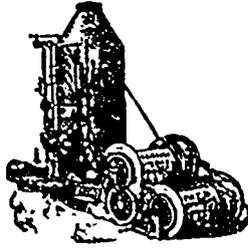
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It is not affected in the least by change of temperature; neither Fire, Lightning, Electricity or Concussion can fire it, and nothing but the insertion of the Detonator or the cartridges can make it explode. Since its first introduction THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A REPORT OF A SINGLE ACCIDENT OR LOSS OF LIFE either in its use or manufacture. Any explosive containing NITRO GLYCERINE when exposed alternately to moist and dry air is LIABLE TO SPONTANEOUS IGNITION, and such is reported against by H. M. Inspector of Explosives. 31-NII-90. Hence the terrible accidents which are constantly occurring from the use of Dynamite whereby THOUSANDS OF MINERS HAVE BEEN KILLED.

ROBURITE is also MORE ECONOMICAL TO USE than any other explosive. This has been clearly demonstrated in the ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR COLLIERIES IN ENGLAND that are using it exclusively, and Miners in Nova Scotia have only to study closely the character of the material to be operated on, and after a little practice will discover that a very small charge of Roburite will do all the work that larger charges had previously been used to do. MORE COAL CAN BE GOTTEN BY ROBURITE AND AT LESS COST than by any other explosive whilst at the same time ALL RISK OF ACCIDENT IS AVOIDED. These are facts which should be well studied by Managers of Mines and Miners who have any regard for their lives and the comfort and happiness of their wives and children.

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## MINING.

The business men of St. John are shrewd and enterprising, and it is not surprising to find that they are investing to a large extent in the gold mines of this Province. There are several syndicates and one construction company formed there with ample capital, and any good mines offered are thoroughly investigated, and if the circumstances warrant, purchased or capital advanced to aid in development. The same is true of coal mines, and some of our largest producers to-day were started with capital subscribed in St. John. The deep and intelligent interest in our mineral resources evinced by leading merchants and capitalists in St. John is in striking contrast with the apathy displayed by Halifax business men, who when they do invest generally lose, as they refuse to recognize native talent, but put up their money on the plausible tales of smooth-tongued outsiders who have absolutely no mining experience. There are of course numerous exceptions to this rule, but recent developments prove that it still holds good.

Mr. Chas. M. Dobson, M. E. and C. E., of Chicago, has lately paid a visit to New Brunswick in the interests of Chicago capitalists, who contemplate the purchase of the Stockton manganese mines near Sussex. Mr. Dobson is a thorough metallurgist as well as mining engineer, and has had charge of some of the largest mines and reduction works in Arkansas and Colorado. He has held prominent positions in all parts of the world, and many large properties have been sold on his favorable reports. In his reports on the treatment of gold ores he always has a good word to say of the pattern of stamp mill manufactured in Nova Scotia, and on one occasion imported into the States a mill manufactured by the Truro Foundry and Machine Co. While in St. John Mr. Dobson received a large retainer from some gentlemen interested in gold mining at Isaac's Harbor and Country Harbor to visit and report on their property, and spent a short time in that part of the country. He was evidently most favorably impressed with both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as favorable fields for the investment of capital in mining enterprise, and as he is now located in Chicago, where he has the best of connections, his visit here may result in important business.

The action of the government in increasing the royalty on coal under existing leases from 7½ to 10 cents on run of the mine coal has already done harm, as the discussion evoked has brought into unpleasant prominence the fact that lessees of coal and other areas in this Province are at the mercy of the government, who have the authority—or claim they have—to increase the royalty at pleasure. Under the heading "Proposed Mining Legislation in Nova Scotia; Bad Political Economy;" Rossiter W. Raymond, Special Contributor of the New York *Engineering and Mining Journal*, has an able and logical article on the proposed increase in royalty, in which he points out the probable effect of the enforcement of the measure. We quote his concluding paragraphs only, as space forbids the publication of the whole of his valuable letter. "There has never been, probably, more unemployed capital in London, Berlin, Paris and New York than there is to-day. Yet it has seldom been so difficult to enlist it in promising enterprises. One principal reason is declared to be (and I believe the statement), the hostility shown by legislatures to capitalists and corporations. Granger laws, special tax-laws, laws indicating prices of commodities, and a host of other fanciful experiments in 'State Socialism,' are driving capital away from the places that need it most. Would it be wise for Nova Scotia to join this procession of folly, and give notice that she also, 'from time to time,' intends to pluck and squeeze, and see how near she can come to killing the goose that lays her golden eggs? If she does, even geese will shun her shores hereafter.

'But,' it may be asked, 'if it should be clear that the royalty now paid upon coal is smaller than, in fairness to the Province and without injustice to the industry, it ought to be, may not the Legislature, now or at any other time, at least wherever it has the expressly reserved right to change the royalty, exercise that right?'

My answer is that, as to future leases, there can be no question; and it would be a very good thing for the Legislature to try the experiment and see whether, under the higher royalty imposed, anybody would want to lease the lands. As to lands leased but not worked, there might be no special harm done by giving notice of a higher royalty to be exacted when work should be begun. But in both of these cases I think assurance should be given that this new royalty would not be raised again for a period of years, long enough to justify the investment of capital in extensive operations. Finally, as to enterprises now active upon leased lands, I think an immediate increase of royalty, whether lawful or not, would be in the highest degree unwise, and would inflict upon the Province an injury far greater than any benefit which could be expected from a temporary increase of revenue."

The *Stellarton Journal and News* states: "We are now in a position to say that the valuable property of the Inverness Coal and Railway Company has changed hands. The lucky purchaser is, we understand, Mr. Wm. Penn Hussey, of Deerport, Mass. It may be asked, 'if the property is a valuable one, how is it that it has not been developed?' There are several reasons, the chief of which is, that to develop the property would have involved a large outlay in the building of a railway or other means of exit for the product. The building by the Government of the C. B. railway renders possible shipments from the property by a branch railway. It was considered that connection with the sea was impossible except on an outlay of \$100,000 or more. It is now believed that a canal can be cut between the lake in the centre of the property and the ocean at a cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000. This canal once built would give the Broad Cove field practically