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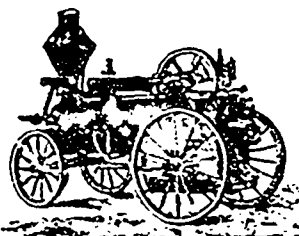
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MINING.

H. S. McKay's paper on the Killag Gold District, which was read before the Nova Scotia Institute of Science and published in the *Morning Herald*, has been strongly criticised by John E. Hardman and George W. Stuart in lengthy letters to that journal. In the *Herald* of May tenth Mr. McKay hits back with considerable force; and contends as is now generally admitted that most of the mines that have proved failures would have turned out valuable if understood and worked scientifically and intelligently.

Mr. McKay's original paper on the Killag Gold District, which has provoked the discussion, while possessing undoubted merit, was marred by its tone of assertion, and lacked the dignity and calm impressive reasoning that generally distinguish scientific articles. It apparently reflected severely on George W. Stuart, who had discovered the lead after years of patient work and no small outlay of cash, and drew from the latter gentleman an able defence of his connection with the mine. Mr. McKay in his last letter disclaims all intention of attacking Mr. Stuart, whom he compliments highly, and this should remove from the discussion an unpleasant personal feature.

Giving Mr. McKay due credit for what he has already accomplished at Killag, it is still apparent that results as yet hardly justify his claims of success. A year's actual mining work will yet be required to prove the soundness of his theories, and we hope his reward may be commensurate with his undoubted enterprise and originality.

The discussion will do much good, and we shall watch for further letters with keen interest, as the parties involved in the controversy are all prominently connected with gold mining, and what they write should be worthy of careful perusal.

MOOSELANDS.—Through an unfortunate typographical error in our last issue the yield of gold at the preliminary crushing of the new mill of the Mooselands Gold Mining Company was placed at two instead of ten ounces, the correct yield.

Another session of the Local Legislature has been brought to a close, and nothing appears to have been done towards establishing a Provincial Assay Office, nor was a grant made to defray the expense of a mineral collection for the World's Fair.

GOLD RIVER.—Preliminary arrangements made to work the Neptune Gold Mine in the Gold River District by thoroughly practical mining men have been abruptly terminated, as it was found the injunction had not been dissolved. There is work ahead for the legal fraternity.

CAPE BRETON.—Considerable prospecting work was done at Middle River and its vicinity last year and work will soon be resumed. Nothing of special value has yet been discovered, but hard work may result in the unearthing of paying lodes.

The Boulder Tribune and Camera of April 20th, published at Boulder, Colorado, has been handed us by Mr. G. A. Huestis. In it we note that the Orphan Boy Mine, Copper Rock Camp, has been yielding some wonderfully rich ore. "Here are the figures:

"First grade showing free gold 3,898.8 ounces gold, trace silver, value per ton \$77,976.00.

Second grade. Clean iron cubes 182 ounces of gold—value per ton \$3600.

Good judges have been estimating the value of the last strike at from \$500 to \$1000 per ton. These figures are not in it now and the whole 3-foot ore body may run up to \$5000 per ton or even higher.

Such an immense deposit of high grade ore was never known before in Boulder County or in the State."

At the half-yearly meeting of the General Mining Association in London, the chairman moved the adoption of the report, and said he thought, on the whole, he might describe it as fairly satisfactory, more especially as they were able to pay a dividend which was 25 per cent. more than they paid last year—namely, 8s. per share instead of 6s. He did not say that was very brilliant; but, considering that they had not had the active demand that might have been expected, and the era of low prices that had set in, not only in coal, but in every other article of commerce, he did not think the result of their operations was unsatisfactory. He thought £4, at which their shares of £8 stood in the market, did not represent their actual value; for, taking the last ten years, they had paid on an average 7s. a share, which, with the shares at £4, worked out at 9 per cent. The motion was carried unanimously. The retiring director (W. S. Cunard) was re-elected, as was also W. B. L. Atkins (the author).

NOVA SCOTIA COAL ROYALTY.—We lately mentioned that the government of Nova Scotia proposed increasing the royalty collected on coal sold from crown mines. The legislature has authorized the increase, though everything was done by the lessees to make it plain that the bill was a breach of contract and trampled on vested rights. The opinions of the best lawyers in the province were unequivocally on the side of the lessees, and clearly laid down the principle that as a matter of contract the legislature had no right to increase the royalty during the currency of the leases. Still, the legislature has so enacted, for they have the power, a power to override vested rights happily not possessed by our state legislatures. Many of the members who as supporters of the government had to vote for the measure, disliked so doing, for they felt they were treating in bad faith