

## MINING.

**TO THE PRESS—THAT TEST HOLE.**—We have, so far, been alone in urging upon the Government the idea of sinking a test shaft in one of our recognized gold-bearing leads, in order to prove whether or not the gold mines of Nova Scotia contain a second pay-streak. This streak is usually found at the depth of 800 to 1200 feet from the surface. We have pointed out the immense advantages that the country would derive from the discovery that deep mining would pay in Nova Scotia, and have hinted that the Government had a material interest in ascertaining this fact. The question is surely one of sufficient importance to warrant the public press, in both the city and country, devoting some attention to it; and we should like to hear from every journal in Nova Scotia a candid expression of opinion, as to whether or not they think the Government should take this matter up, or whether it is to be left for the rulers of the people two generations hence to settle.

**A MINERS' CAMP MEETING.**—Since our last issue, several experienced miners have expressed their approval of the suggestion made in THE CRITIC that our mine-owners should hold a convention in Halifax. One correspondent urges that it should take place during the Session of the Legislature, say on or before the 15th of March. Another suggests that the term convention is too pretentious, and might have the effect of inducing many to stay at home; and recommends, as being more appropriate, "A Miners' Camp Meeting"—business, informal; object, mutual advantage. There can be no doubt, that the idea of holding a meeting of our mine-owners is well received, but it will require some one to take the initiative, in order to have the idea take practical shape.

**OLDHAM.**—In the Oldham district there are 40 gold-bearing leads, and the output, up to the present time, has been about 2,500 oz. For many years, gold-mining in Oldham was carried on in a primitive style, trenches being made to the depth of 20 feet, which, after the quartz was taken out, were allowed to fill with water. Mr. J. E. Hardman, who is one of the most practical miners in the Province, is now working the celebrated Dunbrack lode. The quartz being taken out, carries a large amount of gold, the yield from three cart loads having been \$1,000.

**PLEASANT RIVER.**—The Pleasant River gold mine, owned by W. J. Nelson and others, was sold during the past week to Messrs. Eaton and McGuire, of Duluth, for \$19,000. The property, which has been fairly developed, promises well. The main shaft has been sunk to the depth of 35 feet, and the quartz now being taken out, carries 2 oz. to the ton. The vein is said to run parallel to the now celebrated McGuire lead at Whitburn, Queens Co.

**CALEDONIA.**—Arrangements are being made to put up a mill, with machinery, on the McGuire claim; and it is understood that the owners of adjoining areas have made arrangements to assist in the purchase of a heavier stamp mill than was at first proposed. Co-operation in this respect enables owners of small claims to have their crushing done at moderate rates.

**NICTAUX.**—The gold fever has seized the people of Nictaux, gold-mining being the principal topic of discussion among all classes. The lead discovered near Nictaux, some months since, has led to the discovery of several others, all of which show good sights of gold in the quartz. An Annapolis gentleman has had the ore tested, and is so well satisfied with the result, that he proposes stocking a company for working in the spring.

**TRURO.**—Mr. Editor,—I observe that you are advocating in THE CRITIC the holding of a convention of gold mine-owners, in Halifax. I believe that such a convention would be of immense benefit to the mining interests of this Province, even were there no formal business transacted. Such a convention would give us an opportunity of conversing with those engaged in mining; and there can be no doubt that we would all be benefitted by an interchange of ideas on the subject. Yours, etc.,

G. M.

**THE COPPER PRODUCTION OF 1885.**—The *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York, in its issue of January 30th, 1886, gives a very elaborate and detailed statement of the copper situation, both in the United States and in England and France; the amount produced and consumed, and the prospects for the present year. We publish a few figures and extracts from the same, as follows:—

## UNITED STATES PRODUCTION.

Lake Superior Mines.....	31,763 tons (Refined Copper.)
Montana .....	26,560 "
Arizona.....	10,268 "
Other States.....	1,518 "
	70,109 "
Copper contained in imported ores, mostly Canadian Pyrites.....	2,366 tons.
	72,475 "
Stock on hand Jan. '85.....	8,482 "
Total available supply.....	80,957 "

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