

MINING—Continued.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT
INSPECTOR OF MINES.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The auriferous district of Nova Scotia stretches in an irregular band along its southern shore. Its area is estimated at about 3,000 square miles. The gold mines are scattered irregularly through this band, the greater number being to the eastward of Halifax. The auriferous districts are found to contain numerous veins of quartz from one inch to six feet in thickness, running continuously in many cases for several miles. Nearly all these veins contain gold, but, as elsewhere, only a certain percentage are rich enough to work. They carry the gold in visible grains embedded in the quartz, and in the various sulphides of copper, lead, iron, etc., invariably found in them. The width of the veins usually worked varies from four to twenty inches, but in some cases they are found to be highly auriferous when much wider.

These veins carry gold in amounts varying from a trace up to several ounces, and in common with auriferous veins of other countries, frequently present it in the form of "pay streaks" or rich zones in the vein. These pay streaks are of varied width and depth, and are frequently very rich. In the Sherbrooke district one of these rich deposits was followed to a depth of 600 feet. The quartz surrounding these richer portions of the veins varies in value from three to ten dollars a ton. Other veins again show a uniform yield, not exceeding one-half to three quarters of an ounce to the ton for long distances.

Among the more prominent districts at the present time may be mentioned the Salmon River Mines. Here work has been carried on for several years on a vein of quartz from three to six feet wide. Several shafts have been sunk to a depth of about 150 feet, and ore has been extracted from a portion of the vein about 900 feet long. The quartz is crushed in a stamp mill driven by water power, and placed about a quarter of a mile from the mine. There are eight batteries, each holding five stamps, weighing about 700 lbs. each complete. The average yield from the quartz has varied between 7 dwts. and one ounce to the ton. Owing to the size of the vein and the cheapness of the water power crushing, this ore could be profitably treated even if the value of the gold yield fell to five dollars, or say twenty shillings to the ton. Since the opening of the mine 33,253 tons of quartz have been crushed and yielded 18,047 ounces of gold. This mine can be taken as a sample of others now working in the Province; but it will be understood that the narrower the vein the richer its contents must prove, as the expense of mining increases rapidly with the amount of dead work. At Montagu, Rawdon, Oldham, Stormont, and Lake Catcha, profitable mining has been carried on during the past year.

However tempting the prospects of the rich quartz veins may prove to the miner, the great future of gold mining in Nova Scotia, in my opinion, lies in the so called "low grade" ores. In many of the districts are met wide belts of slate and quartzite, intersected by quartz veins, both the veins and the rocks being more or less auriferous. Experience in the Western States has shown that ore such as this, mined in large quantities and crushed and amalgamated in large mills of 75 to 100 stamps, pays well even when worth not more than \$5 a ton. Trials on a working scale have been made of such ores as they occur in this Province, and the field appears even more promising here than in any other gold mining country.

At Sherbrooke and Mount Uniacke large lots of this ore have been quarried and crushed in small mills, and the results have shown that such operations, if conducted on a large scale, with approved appliances, would pay well. The values of these crushings have averaged from 3 to 7 dwts. to the ton, and it can be safely asserted that nowhere can labor and the usual supplies of mining camps be procured more cheaply than in Nova Scotia.

ALLUVIAL GOLD.—In Nova Scotia, contrary to the history of most gold mining countries, alluvial work has played an insignificant part. It is generally believed that the causes, which have contributed to the present contour of the country, have swept all detritus away into the Atlantic. This is a mistake. Australian miners assert that bare rock surfaces are not more abundant in the district under consideration than in the gold districts of Australia. Small amounts of gold have been procured by alluvial work at Tangier, Waverley, and Moose River, but no systematic attempts have been made to test the old river courses, or the still waters, etc., of the present drainage systems which run for the most part transversely to the strike of the veins. Many of the districts have a surface apparently rich enough to treat by sluicing and crushing, and several of the rivers are reported to give good tests.

At Gay's River, an ancient indurated sea beach or river bed lying on the auriferous measures, carries gold at the junction of the slates and conglomerate, and has been worked to some extent.

A big clean-up was made at the Lane mine in this place last Monday. Twenty-one pounds of pure gold was the net yield of a two week's run. Immensely rich rock has just been struck, and an unprecedented yield is looked for at the next clean up.—*Angels Echo.*

The Fancher Creek mine, located by M. V. Ashbrook and others, is prospering well. The quartz vein has increased from four inches in thickness at the surface to over twenty inches at a depth of thirty feet. Specimen rock assays from \$80 to \$100 per ton. This is the nearest mine to this city, being less than thirty miles distant.—*Fresno Republican.*

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