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Machinery and Supplies.

Ansten Brothers,

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Are prepared to furnish Estimates for every description of MACHINERY and SUPPLIES at

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We beg to say that we carry the largest and best assorted Stock in the Provinces; and parties requiring Lubricants will inform us of the kind of work it is to do we will send an Oil, and GUARANTEE it satisfactory or no sale.

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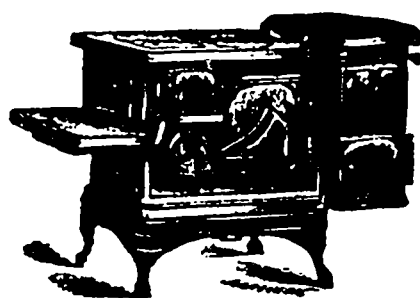
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TO PLACE YOUR ORDERS FOR

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— AND —

HOLLOWWARE,



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GOLD MINING MACHINERY

Of every kind, with latest Western Improvements.

ROTARY SAW MILLS,

In Latest Styles, and

HOT WATER BOILERS.

Estimates furnished for Heating Dwellings
Stores, Churches, &c., with Hot
Water or Steam.

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Manufacturers of Boilers and
Engines, Iron Bridges, Stoves,
Ship, Mill and General Castings.

MINING.

A TRIP TO THE EASTERN GOLD DISTRICTS.

(Continued.)

DESCENT OF THE DUFFERIN MINE.

Proceeding to shaft No. 5 West, Captain Archibald introduced me to Mr. Irwine, the underground foreman, and we prepared to visit the underground workings. One of the workmen loaned me his overalls, the Captain procured me a miner's jacket, and then lighting our candles we commenced the descent of the 200 foot ladder that leads to the lower level. The foreman went first, the Captain second, and I followed. Outside it was bright sunshine, but in a second all was gloom, intensified by the flickering light of the candles. Kent Archibald did not go with us, and just as I disappeared I noticed a sardonic grin on his face, which plainly said, "we've got a duffer-in this time," (no joke intended). The ladder followed the incline of the lead to the south, and then went to the bottom without a break, so that we had to step down—down—down—with a monotony that grew irksome in the extreme. I had been given the best position, as the lower men on the ladder have the benefit of all the dirt kicked off the rungs by those overhead, but somehow I did not feel happy. A poor man had been killed by falling from that very ladder, and this thought would recur to me, and I found myself grasping the rungs at a great expenditure of strength, and taking most unnecessary pains about my footing. The air seemed stilling, and the perspiration came out in beads on my forehead and ran into my eyes with blinding effect. But there is an end to all earthly misery, and almost before I knew it we were at the bottom. The foreman led the way along the tunnel, the walls of which in places were timbered, but in others the solid slates were sound, and extended away above our heads without a flaw. The floor of the tunnel was of quartz, and the work of sinking the shaft we had come down will soon be proceeded with. At places we had to crawl over wheel-barrow loads with quartz, or to avoid masses of rock that the miners had dislodged at their work.

350 feet west of the shaft we came to the end of the workings, where the miners were drilling away for dear life and getting out quantities of good pay ore. Returning, we followed the workings for some distance east of the shaft, and inspected several bodies of miners at their work. The lead widens and narrows, varying from one to six feet in width. By some very rough crawling we might have gone through the whole 1500 feet of workings, but the Captain concluded that we had better climb to the surface and reach the easterly workings by another shaft.

If the descent had been tiresome, the ascent was even more so, and, as I crawled on deck and laid down on a pile of quartz, gasping for breath, I mentally vowed that it would be many a long day before I would again attempt such a climb. Examining the great blocks of quartz that came to the surface, I found them peppered with gold, and concluded that the west end of the mine must be yielding very rich ore. On attempting to walk, I found that my knees were very shaky, with a decided tendency to bend inward, but saying nothing, I followed my guides to shaft No. 2 east. Here the Captain concluded to remain on the surface, and only Mr. Irwine and I went down.

The descent was made partly by ladders and partly down the incline of the mine—and I can't say which is the worst, as the inclines are very slippery. At one place a short length of ladder led down to where the miners were at work. The ladder did not reach to the bottom of the level by some six feet, and it was necessary to scramble down as best one could. I found slight trouble in getting down, but on the return what little strength I had left was nearly exhausted in getting up.

In this manner we reached the bottom of the workings, 160 feet from the surface, and here passed through the cross-cut into the north level. This we followed for 400 feet easterly, and came upon the miners working on the face of the tunnel, where the lead was fully 25 feet wide. We also visited the middle lead, which is from two to three feet wide, and the south, which is from five to six. In cutting the cross-cut a new lead was discovered between the middle and north, which also is gold bearing. I was simply astonished at the size of the leads, the extent of the workings, and the perfection with which the mining operations are conducted. Cross-cuts and galleries seemed to lead off in all directions, and I should certainly have lost my way without a guide. After some time spent below, we returned to the surface and went down another shaft still further east. This was less than one hundred feet deep, and at one time we were over the workings we had visited from shaft No. 2. We inspected all the levels, found the miners busy in all directions, and took refuge while shots were being fired in a cross-cut. Finally we reached the surface by a different shaft than the one we had descended, and I dropped on a pile of rocks completely exhausted and very seasick from the fumes of the dynamite. With considerable effort I "calmed rebellious nature," but for some ten minutes, as I lay bathed in perspiration and gasping for breath, no reward would have tempted me down another shaft. I had just had visible evidence of the enormous richness of the Dufferin mines, but if its proprietors had stood before me and offered me the whole mine provided I would visit all three shafts over again, I should have declined without thanks. While Capt. Archibald was waiting for me at shaft No. 2, a darker, whom I had passed in the tunnel, came to the surface and yelled to the men on deck. "Golly, you should see dat coon down below, he's getting the fat tied out of him, I tell you!" and he was right.

The two Archibalds made me their guest, and after a hearty dinner at the boarding-house, Kent took down his repeating rifle and, with the Captain, we walked up to the big dam. Here we got into a row-boat, and the Captain and I pulled up to the lake, about two miles.