

Mineral Wealth of the Maritime Provinces.

AS THE gold fields of Nova Scotia occupy a district extending over some 300 miles in length and from ten to forty in width, covering anywhere from 3,000 to 7,000 square miles, it is apparent that there is yet fine opportunity for the prospector and the capitalist.

The report of 1892 by Edwin Gilpin, A.M. F.G.S., Inspector of Mines for the province of Nova Scotia, mentions fifteen districts containing thirty mines from which returns were received from that year. These districts were scattered all the way from Yarmouth, in the extreme south west of the province, to the strait of Canso.

Nor do the gold deposits stop at the strait. The streams of Cape Breton Island roll down a quantity of golden sand, though as yet the main sources of supply have not been found, and alluvial mining has been carried on only in a desultory manner.

The first gold mine mentioned in the report of Inspector Gilpin is Tangier. At Tangier thirty five years ago the earliest gold miner struck it rich in Nova Scotia. He was an alluvial miner and went into the business accidentally. This man lay down on his stomach to take a drink out of a brook. Whether he got a good drink or not is not known, but near his lips he found a gold pebble. This prize he carried away, and when he showed it about, the belief that gold existed in the province became a certainty. Within a few years gold was found in half a dozen places, in Lunenburg, Hants, Halifax and Guysboro counties. Early in the sixties gold mining became a recognised industry in the province. Since then 560,000 ounces of gold have been returned for royalty at the mines office, the total value being over \$19,000,000. The present annual yield is worth some \$400,000.

It is not too much to say that gold mining in Nova Scotia has brought in as good results for the labor and capital expended as it has in California or Australia. A great deal of work is thrown away here as elsewhere on worthless or

This seems to show that if all the mines belonged to one man he could pay good wages and cover all the expenses of opening up new properties, and make good profits. The official report also shows almost constant increase in the returns made to labor. With the exception of 1886, in which year some good strikes were made, the average earnings were greater in 1892 than in any previous year.

The grade of the ore and the size of the lode in the Nova Scotia deposits vary very much, but nature has to some extent regulated these conditions by giving a greater amount of her wealth to the smaller lodes. The conditions for working also vary greatly, but taken generally are unquestionably favorable to the miner. The gold is mainly in a free state, though in some ores large returns are obtainable from the sulphurets. For free milling no better machinery is made in the world than in Canada. The class of labor is good, and owing to the cheap cost of living is less expensive than in other gold countries. Fuel, either coal or wood, is very cheap. Hardwood can be delivered at any mine for \$1.25 to \$2.00 per cord. Distances from railway or water terminus to any of the gold districts are not great, and with good roads the means of transportation is favorable, and the cost comparatively light. Taking all things into consideration, there is no better or more satisfactory investment for capital than the Nova Scotia gold fields.

The official show that gold mining was never so prosperous as now. The causes of this improvement are not far to seek. The cost of mining has been greatly reduced by the introduction of the best appliances and the most economic management. The expense of crushing is much less than formerly, and the separation of the gold from the ore is effected with less loss.

It has come to be recognized that the future of Nova Scotia mining lies largely if not mainly in what are known as the low grade ores. "In many of the districts" says Inspector Gilpin, "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 \$4 00 a ton. Trials on a working scale have been made of such ores as these, in this province, and the field appears even more promising here than in any other gold mining country."

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exhausted mines, and of course much is expended on development of properties not yet remunerative. Yet in 1892 the result of 120,761 days labor in and about the gold mines of Nova Scotia was the production of 21,080 ounces, which at \$18.00 per ounce represents \$3.14 for each day's work. As the actual value of smelted gold is \$19.60, the average return would be \$3.30 per day,

Going more into particulars the Inspector says. "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.

(To be continued.)



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