

MINING.—Continued.

In October last we mentioned the sale of the Lake lode mine, Cariboo district, by Gladwin, Morill, Stuart, and others, to some Boston gentlemen, for the sum of \$30,000. We are in a position to-day to state that the mine is giving entire satisfaction to its present owners. The lode, which was but three feet thick, at time of purchase, has developed in the two shafts that are being sunk, now to a depth of ninety feet each, to four feet in one, and fourteen feet in the other, and is yielding an average of eighteen penny-weights to the ton, all material raised being crushed. The owners are prosecuting the work with care and prudence, proving the mine with the appliances on it when purchased, a small engine and boiler, driving one pump and hoisting gear, and one five stamp battery, out of which they are averaging a little over one hundred ounces per month during this development. They have now at the works 700 cords of hardwood, all cut and hauled during the past winter by the neighboring farmers. Systematic work skillfully guided is evidently the rule at this mine, and we congratulate the management upon being able to resist the temptation to put up expensive machinery before the property has been thoroughly developed. They have carefully avoided the rock that has wrecked many a promising mining venture, and are bound to succeed.

The Annapolis Gold Mining Co. have a property at Caledonia, and Mr. C. P. Maynard, an experienced miner, left Annapolis a short time since to thoroughly prospect their claims.

Mr. H. K. Fisher, who is now President of the Gallagher Gold Mining Company, was in town a few days ago, and has settled up satisfactorily with W. B. Reynolds & Co., who were carrying on the suit at law against the company. The property has been handed back to the company, and bonds given to respond to any claim that Mr. Shattuck may have against the mine. It is satisfactory to note that the mine is now free from litigation, and that active preparations are about being commenced. We expect to be soon able to chronicle the receipt of valuable gold bricks from this mine, as in the past it was one of the most regular gold-producers in the Province.

NEW BRUNSWICK MINING ITEMS.—The mining interests in New Brunswick are very quiet at present, and prospectors and speculators are waiting until the snow and ice disappear.

The Solicitor-General gave notice before the close of the Legislature of a change in mining licenses, but, as it met with some opposition from some warm supporters of the Government, it was withdrawn. The mining laws of New Brunswick are very few, and such as they are they are worth remodelling.

Many persons in this province have been watching the discussion of Mr. Fraser, M. P. P., and those who hold opposite views as regards the gold mining interests of Nova Scotia. It is generally believed that Mr. Fraser has the right end of the story, and that a radical change in these laws could be made so as to be more beneficial to the miner, and at the same time add materially to the receipts of the province.

Many rumors are in circulation as to the probable revival of the mining interests at the old Albert Mines near Hillsboro, for Albertite. It is firmly believed that the mineral exists there in as large quantities as it ever did, and only needs the required capital to develop and explore the same. The old Albert mines property is owned now by a Capt. H. Calhoun, who would willingly negotiate with men of capital for the further exploration of this valuable property. It seems simply nonsense to say that this deposit worked upon by the old Albert Mines Co., was the only body of coal in existence when the shales and conglomerates which they laid in, can be traced from Beech Hill, in Westmoreland County, running in a north-easterly and south-westerly course, to Newton on the I. C. R., a distance of fully 50 to 60 miles. Small seams of the genuine Albertite can be found back of Penobscot, and at different intervals. It is also understood that the shales, which are highly inflammable, have attracted considerable attention from capitalists in England, who annually export thousands of tons of shales from Australia and other points. Deposits of natural gas are also known to exist on this formation, and on the Taylor Village side of the old Beliveau and Albertite Oil and Coal Company's property, in sinking a shaft and in fixing a shot in the level about the outer section of an old bore-hole, gas escaped and ignited so freely that the workmen had difficulty in getting to the surface uninjured. The gas from these bore-holes was led to the pit head and engine-room, and used for months in lighting up the workings of the company. It is said this gas is escaping in the same locality to this day as freely as ever. It is to be sincerely hoped the attention of capitalists may again be directed to these localities.

Mining operations are still being vigorously conducted by Mr. Sargeant, of Boston, in vicinity of Crooked Creek, Albert Co., and it is said that the enterprise is backed up by a good amount of capital in Boston, to prosecute the same successfully. The manager has lately been in Boston making further arrangements, and it is said that the prospects are claimed to be fully as good as the New Ireland mines, and the additional advantage of being so much nearer shipping facilities on the Bay of Fundy shore. Several tracts of property have, it is said, been negotiated for.

Mr. Pendergrast, of well-known mining fame, has been zealously engaged on some mining ventures in Albert County, the general results of which are not yet fully known. It is just possible some new mining venture will be put before the public at no very late date, and of which I will, in conjunction with other matters, try and keep you as fully posted as possible.

Yours, etc.

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HALIFAX, N. S., April 2, 1887.

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