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MINING.

Mr. Gilpin in his report gives an interesting summary of the work done
 during the past year in the different mining districts and we continue in
 this issue to quote his remarks under the heading of "gold":—

It is to be regretted that I have to note the dismantlement of the fine
 milling plant, built by Fraser and Chalmers, for Mount Uniacke, a few years
 ago. I understand that this mill was put up to work low grade ore ground.
 I am myself a believer in the future dependence of our gold mining on the
 low grade ores, but have never yet seen a low grade ore mining enterprise
 established on a firm and lasting basis, when the supply of ore was looked
 for in broken ground. If I might venture to put in words my idea of how
 a low grade ore property should be put on the market as a business specu-
 lation for investors, I would say that it should comprise a block of ground
 ample in size, that at least six separate and distinct tests of 250 tons each
 should be made over the property, and there would then be some guarantee
 of permanency, and a fair criterion of value. I believe, from my visits to
 various districts, that there exists at many points large bodies of low grade
 ores, running from 2½ to 4 dwts. to the ton, which could be profitably hand-
 led. But such enterprises not presenting the allurements of the lotteries of
 rich veins, they should be carefully selected, and thoroughly tested before
 systematic work is commenced.

During the past season I have had the assistance of Mr. F. W. Christie
 in inspecting the western mines, and of Mr. Wm Madden, Jr., Deputy
 Inspector, who visited the principal mines east of Halifax. Mr. Christie
 reports as follows on the Queen's County Mines:—

Gold mining has been vigorously prosecuted in the districts in the
 northern part of the county. Most of the work has been confined to regular
 mines in Brookfield, Malaga Barrens and Whiteburn districts. Prospecting,
 which is always interesting to the people of new districts, has been greatly
 hindered by the exceptionally wet season that has continued since the spring.
 Very few new discoveries have been reported. Despite some failures, mining
 business has materially improved, and has caused an improvement in general
 trade of the county. Considerable interest in these districts has been awak-
 ened by the enquiries of outside capitalists looking for mining investment.
 Good care is shown in the underground workings and in timbering, and
 although a great many unskilled men are employed, very few accidents have
 occurred.

Brookfield.—Work in this district was resumed after the discovery of the
 "Dunbrack" vein. This vein partakes of the character of a true fissure
 vein in intersecting the country rock instead of conforming to it, as the leads
 in this county do in general. The quartz or pay ore had a width in a good
 part of the mine of from twelve to fifteen inches, and some mouths gave
 returns of five (?) ounces per ton. The property was bought by the Phila-
 delphia Mining Company, who have put up shaft houses and built a tramway
 to the Brookfield Company's mill, which they leased. Prospecting was gone
 into to some extent, but was retarded by the very wet season.

Malaga Barrens—Business in this district has been very brisk during
 the past year. A large number of buildings of all kinds have been put up.
 The population of the mines has increased to nearly 400 people. A new
 road of six miles in length has been built from the mines to Chelsea Settle-
 ment in Lunenburg County, making the distance between the mines and
 Bridgewater about twenty miles. Another piece of road about a mile and a
 half in length connects the road to Chelsea with L. Belle, giving a shorter
 route to Liverpool and Port Medway. A small steamer has run on Poonhook
 Lake, from points on the lake to the mines, thus affording extra accomoda-
 tion for passenger travel and freight traffic. The Malaga Company have
 been operating three mines on their properties, and twenty stamps in the
 crusher. Development work has been vigorously pushed in the three mines,
 and they are well equipped. The Parker Douglas Company have re-opened
 their property, and are mining on two veins showing abundance of good
 ore. The Company have built a crusher and a number of buildings for car-
 rying on the business of the mines on their property. They have put in a
 plant for supplying compressed air to drills in sinking shafts and driving
 tunnels. They have also bought a large number of areas lying east of their
 first property, and purpose to work them during the coming season. The
 Minneapolis and Malaga Mining Company did a large amount of develop-
 ment work on the veins on their property, and built a 20 stamp mill, but on
 account of the unsatisfactory nature of the yields from their ore tests, they
 contemplate a stoppage of the work.

Reports of discoveries and prospecting were made from different parts of
 the county, as West Caledonia, Westfield, Lake Rosignol, Greenfield, Broad
 River, &c.

The returns show that there were 22,625 days' labor performed, 4,518 oz
 14 dwts. 6 grs of gold extracted, and \$5,694 00 paid for rights and
 royalties.

In Yarmouth County there is nothing new to report.
 In Lunenburg County prospecting was carried on extensively at several
 points, but not much active mining performed. There were a few lots
 crushed by the Millisigato Company. In the fall a good deal of attention
 was directed towards the eastern end of this district.

In Hants County, the Rawdon United Mining Company made returns
 up to August, principally from Lease 254, when their mill was destroyed by
 fire.

The Northrup-Dimock Company, of Central Rawdon, began milling in
 August, and up to the end of the year had returned 835 ounces from 375
 tons of quartz, etc. The lead here runs across the strata, and considerable
 amounts of the surface rock are rich enough to warrant crushing.

At Mount Uniacke proper there was no work of any note performed
 during the year.

(To be Continued.)

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