

Canadian Mining Review,

OTTAWA.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

ADVERTISING RATES . . . 15c. per line (12 lines to 1 inch).

OFFICE:

UNION CHAMBERS, 14 Metcalfe St.

The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.

Visitors from the mining districts, as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands, are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

All matter for publication in the REVIEW should be received at the office not later than the 20th of the month.

Address all correspondence, &c., to the Publishers of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, Ottawa.

Advertising Space.

The circulation of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, which has steadily been going up since its first publication, more than five years ago, has now more than doubled the estimate upon which we had reckoned, and its value as an advertising medium to business men who wish to reach the best classes of mine owners and operators, and the mining centres and camps of every province in the Dominion, is consequently very greatly enhanced. The REVIEW is in the widest sense a Canadian journal belonging to all provinces alike; it is the only journal published in Canada wholly devoted to the interests of her mining industries and mineral resources. We would simply draw the attention of those who have hitherto overlooked it, to this matter, promising our best attention and most reasonable terms on any application for advertising space.

TIMBER AND MINES

Of the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario as a Means of Producing Revenue.

John Stewart, Ottawa.

The timber area of these provinces is being lessened each year by fire and the axe to an extent beyond that which it is yearly increased by the renewing of the capital stock by the natural growth of the forest. The timber is considered such a permanent means of revenue that in selling lots of land certain reserves of timber are made by the local authorities, and the settler or farmer is not trusted as a fit and proper custodian of this source of the country's wealth. Timber lots are, however, sold to lumbermen or speculators out of the area included in a timber limit; he, therefore, is considered a proper person to hold the timber

reserves of the Province for his future use, and possibly to control the price of lumber or prevent it falling into the hands of a competitor in the same line. The timber area so held is very large, amounting to millions of acres of the best timber lands in these Provinces. The yearly decreasing supply of timber is accompanied by an almost yearly increase in value, not to the revenue and capital account of the Province, but to the fortunate owners of the lots so purchased. As a result of the custom of selling lots with timber, any increase in value of the capital or reserve stock on hand goes to the benefit of the holder of it on speculation; whereas, that benefit would go to the Province, if not sold, but was retained for lease as it ought to be.

Mining lands are sold at prices ranging up to \$2.00 per acre, in Ontario, and up to \$2.50* per acre, in Quebec, and no reserves of minerals are made, excepting for gold in Quebec. This industry is not considered of sufficient value to be held as a means of revenue. In consequence of the system of selling minerals along with the soil, the farmer or speculator in mining lands becomes the person who holds this source of national wealth and revenue; whereas, the mining right and mining lands ought to be held for the use of the miner by the Provincial authorities. A glance at the manner in which mining lands are secured will show the want of system, and the injustice done to explorers and prospectors, where a party under the present system, now in force, makes application at the Department of Crown Lands for a larger or smaller area of mining lands, and no notice of such grant, or location, its area, or time of option, or period of exploration, is made, either on the ground or in the Local Land Office, or in the local newspapers of the district in which the location is made. A party, or speculator, applies for the unoccupied lands in half a township, or a whole township, or possibly more; he may make a money deposit or not, according to the influence he possesses, with the "powers that be." He may explore the lands or not, it is not compulsory for him to make a report of such exploration; nor does the Land office acquire any information of the nature of the part not accepted from the option so granted. There being no law, regulating his actions, he may do just as he pleases in the matter. Sundry explorers and prospectors, as A, B and C are at work in this district, in which the option has been granted, and are of course ignorant of its existence, and prosecute the search for the hidden treasures they are in quest of, quite ignorant of the sad fact that the Government under the present (to them dishonest) system will only rob them of any discovery they may make. Having made a discovery, or find of minerals, A, B or C, makes application for one or more lots, and receives a reply to the effect that the lots in question have been applied for by Mr. Speculator! Mr. Speculator is also notified, and either accepts

the lot or lots, on the exploration or reputation of A, B or C, if it is good, or sends quietly to have it looked at, and if good, resolves to take it, and as A, B, C are not entitled to make their own location on the ground, as it ought to be, consequently there appears no irregularity in the manner in which the transaction is completed, in favour of Mr. Speculator, who has stolen the discovery. A, B or C, the actual discoverer, or the person entitled to it, has no redress, unless he shares his claim with an influential political friend, or two who will champion and fight his cause.

Is this a just and fair system to the mining section of the population? Is it a wise system that scatters the capital or revenue earning resources of the Province, and disposes of them at the price of, and along with the soil, to the wrong owner?

On the one hand the Province offers inducements to immigration, and under a wrong system of laws renders the Province an unfit place for the location of a mining population, as the laws now in force do not encourage exploration and deprive the worthy discoverer of minerals of the just reward of his labour.

In discussing the desirability or not of Government control of certain matters, some do not discriminate or appreciate the difference between cases which are not parallel. In one case, there is an ownership or proprietary, by the state, for the general good, of an article which is tangible and real, such as land, minerals or money, and mail matter; in these cases there is an ownership or responsibility on the part of the State, as these things constitute matters of national magnitude and importance, and prevent monopoly and frauds under proper regulations, thus giving better public satisfaction and confidence than when in private hands. In the instance of others, which are purely matters of trade, with no vested interests in that which is tangible, and no ownership, trust or charge is placed with the Government, but merely a trade, or business conducted, and has no material existence is liable to change of value or subject to inflation in price, and that cannot be manufactured or made, having no reality other than mere sentiment, or the product of the brain of man, as in the case when the state controls the schools and religion; these two, had best be left in private hands to permit of the full development of the individual capacity and competition, producing the survival of the fittest, or that conducted under true principles of right and truth. The condition of Mexico is an instance of the above line of argument. The Government of that country controls the mining industry and owns all minerals, and mining has consequently prospered and been the chief means of revenue.

With forests fast decreasing in area, and mining resources ruined or undeveloped, and the system goes on as at present, from what source in the future is the Provincial Revenue to be derived?