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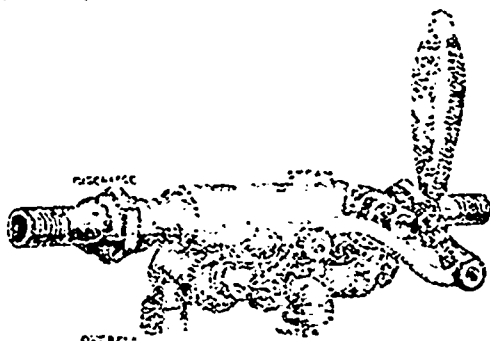
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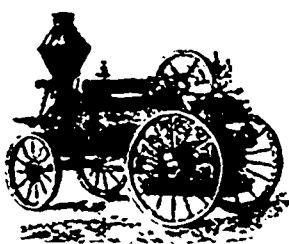
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MINING.

Items From Our Travelling Correspondent.

SALMON RIVER.—The little settlement about the Dufferin Mine, at Salmon River, contrasts very favorably with other mining settlements of the Province.

In place of the rude log shanties and barn-like frame houses, indiscriminately scattered about amidst stumps, rocks and bushes, as is the case at the most of those mining camps which owe their existence simply to the occurrence of the gold bearing leads; we find here a thriving little village, with houses neat and comfortable, and surrounded in many cases with plots of cleared and cultivated land—all going to show that the people who have settled here have come to stay. There are in the village two stores, which provide the accommodations of trade; whilst a comfortable school house, where are held Sunday and day schools—both well attended—affords a place where the young may find suitable training both morally and mentally.

As the settlement derives its existence and support solely from gold mining, we will endeavour to give a brief description of the gold interests of this district. Gold was first discovered at Salmon River by an Indian in the year 1880. Soon after the discovery a large number of areas were taken up by Mr. Kent Archibald, and others, who in the following spring began the erection of a crusher mill, which was ready for running sometime in July or August of the same year. This property, known as the Dufferin, was long a subject of dispute between rival claimants; but after a troublesome and expensive litigation a decision was given in favor of Mr. Archibald and his associates, who, incorporated as the Dufferin Mining Co., still own and work the mines. In giving our description of the property it may perhaps be best to start at the mines, as we shall then be taking things in logical order. There have been three leads worked, varying in width from 18 inches to 20 feet, the ore carrying gold all the way from 3 dwt. to 2 oz. per ton. There are 13 principal shafts on the property, varying in depth from 100 to 300 feet, about 5 of these shafts are worked at present. The underground working of the mine is very extensive,—one lead being worked continuously for a distance of about 2,000 feet at varying depths. Of course a vast amount of stoping has been done as well as considerable cross-cutting.

The lead principally worked at present is about 4 feet wide at the western extremity of the mine, but gradually widens towards the east till it reaches a width of 18 or 20 feet, at one place the lead is much wider than that; so wide indeed that it is considered necessary to leave a portion standing as a support to the hanging wall. The ore in this part of the mine is of low grade and would not pay working were it not for the unusually large body, which makes it easily obtainable. The working on this lead is probably the most extensive of any in Nova Scotia. Just imagine for instance an immense, irregular underground tunnel of nearly one half a mile in length, beginning at one end with a width of 4 or 5 feet and gradually widening out till it becomes in character and appearance like an immense cavern; so high and wide in places that the light of a candle will barely reach the roof and walls. The bottom of this tunnel presents all the variations of surface that would be seen above ground; at one part will be a nearly level stretch, then will come a gradual descent for a short distance, and then again perhaps another level stretch, followed by a steep and rugged pathway or perhaps a sheer descent of 10 or 12 feet.

At one place the lead is to be seen as it crosses the saddle or anti-clinal, one part dipping toward the north and the other toward the south. On top ground, over the lead, is a row of well-equipped shaft houses, with a track running along right by them. On this track, which leads to the mill about half a mile away, are cars into which the ore is thrown and then hauled to the mill by horse; one horse taking 3 cars (3 tons) per load. Beside the shaft houses, there are on the site of the mine a smithy, a house for thawing dynamite, and an engine house. This engine house is well provided, and has a good engine which can be made to do the hoisting and pumping, if so required. The hoisting and pumping at present is all done by water power, supplied by a wire transmission from a water-wheel situated about half a mile away. This wheel is run by a 17 ft. head of water, supplied through a 500 ft. flume, from a lake 4 miles long, which with two other reservoir lakes provide a never-failing motive power. Between the wheel house and the mines, following along parallel to the lead, and a little to the north, are 11 stands some 400 or 500 feet apart. On the top of each of these stands is a large wheel with two grooves in the rim. Wire bands playing from one wheel to the other form connecting links between the wheel house and the hoisting and pumping gear, so that when the water-wheel is set in motion and connections made the 140 horse power of the wheel is at once transmitted to the mines, where it may be applied to any purpose required. There is now in course of construction an ore-breaking plant, the machinery of which will be run by power from the wire transmission gear.

The mills (for there are two, an old and a new,) are both situated on the Salmon River, about half a mile from the mine, and about the same distance from the wheel house. The old mill, which has been in use about ten years, is now about played out, and will be stopped as soon as the new mill is ready for running. It contains 8 batteries, running in all 38 stamps, and has a capacity of about 30 tons per day. The new mill is a fine building, 40x33, and 3 stories high, with the top plates 41 feet from the ground. It is filled with new machinery throughout, the power being supplied by a 50 horse power water-wheel. The site of the new mill being a little below the old one, a trench will be cut from one to the other, so that the water which now runs the old mill will be used for the new, giving about 20 ft. head. The waste water will be allowed to run off through an underground passage to the river; the tailings of the mill will be run off into a swamp. The crushing machinery, made by the Truro Foundry and Machine Co., consists