

we believe will be very largely extended this year, the article we allude to will doubtless be frequently consulted by those interested in silver mining. A remarkable fact is noticed by Mr. Ingall, namely, that there is a vast difference between the official records of silver exported from 1871 to 1875, and the published returns of silver produced. Now, as Canada is not a country which consumes much silver in its unmanufactured condition, this discrepancy is not readily accountable. This fact alone shows of what value Mr. Coste's work will be from year to year, for reference and for information, which may be looked upon as official. Silver mining bids fair to become one of the most valuable of Canadian mining industries.

Mining Around Port Arthur.

A correspondent resident at Port Arthur, and who, although not personally interested in any of the mines there, is a close observer of mining operations, and everything pertaining thereto, sends us the following remarks relative to the work carried on last year (1887). His observations are reliable.

"Mining operations have been carried on very energetically during the year. Upwards of ten thousand acres of mineral lands were purchased from the Ontario Government during the past twelve months, principally iron lands, explorers having traced the rich iron deposit of northern Minnesota into Canadian territory. Active steps will be taken in the early spring to develop these and other properties which will necessitate the expenditure of a large amount of capital and give employment to a great number of men.

"The most phenomenal success in the district is the 'Beaver' silver mine, which, during three months last summer, returned to its owners all the money (about \$200,000) previously invested in working it. Nearly all the other properties on which work has been progressing continue to improve, and it is not improbable that within the next year half a dozen mines may be working quite as successfully as the 'Beaver.'

"The completion of the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway from Port Arthur to the international boundary will greatly facilitate mining operations, not only in the iron but in the silver and gold districts contiguous to this route. Ten miles have been graded this fall, and the timber and ties necessary for the completion of the first twenty miles are on the ground, and it is expected that forty miles will be in operation by 1st July next. This road will also tap a large area of pine timber lands near the boundary which is at present the property of the Provincial Government, and open up a large tract of good agricultural land."

The Nanaimo Explosion.

The details of the terrible disaster at the Wellington Colliery, with its melancholy list of dead, cannot fail to awaken in the hearts of our readers feelings of profound sympathy for the unfortunate wives and families so suddenly bereaved; much suffering must necessarily exist, and we are confident that as soon as an appeal is made for pecuniary assistance the

public will respond with a ready and liberal hand.

The mine has always been regarded as the best arranged and ventilated on the island, and practical men state that its equipment could not have been better. Only a few days before, in accordance with regulations, it had been thoroughly inspected by practical men who reported it to be in the best possible condition. Until the result of the Enquiry has been made known the cause of the deplorable occurrence can only be conjectured. Mr. E. G. Prior, M. P., who inspected the mine shortly after the explosion, examined the faces of all the levels and stalls, and is firmly of opinion that the primary cause of the explosion was a blown-out shot in the face of the main east level. Everything goes to prove that the explosion started from there. All the timbers are blown from that point, and there is a thick coating of soot on that side of all the rock and timbers. A miner's powder canister capable of holding about four pounds, was found within twenty-one feet of the blown-out shot, and the shot itself points in a direct line for the can. The contents of this can had exploded. Some dozen other cans, more or less, full of powder were found in different parts of the levels, headings, &c., where the explosion had passed through, the contents of which had not exploded. Mr. Prior is quite confident that gas played no part in the explosion, but that the latter was started by a blown-out shot, which discharged the powder-can and ignited the coal dust. The mine though dry, is by no means dusty, and is one which, under ordinary circumstances, he would consider perfectly safe from explosion by coal dust.

We are glad to see that the miners are insisting upon practical miners only being allowed to sit on the Enquiry. We need hardly add that in the interests of the mining community a searching investigation must be made with a view to adopting preventative measures for the future.

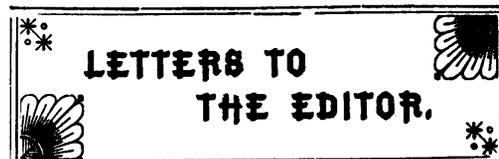
Prospecting Licenses for Gold.

In striking contrast to the shameful apathy and negligence of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia has always had the true interests of the mining community at heart, and by many wise enactments has done much to foster and encourage the development of the resources of the province. This is shewn by the rapid progress and prosperity of the industry, and by the large and increasing revenue annually derived from it by the local treasury. There is, however, still room for improvement, particularly in the present system of granting Prospecting Licenses for Gold, as may be gathered from the following practical remarks made by the Commissioner of Mines:

"These licenses are granted for six months, with an option of renewal. Their location and renewal has led to much confusion and trouble in new districts, as they

are frequently selected almost at random for speculative purposes, and mistakes arise when portions of them are selected for leasing, etc. In view also of the large extent of ground covered by leases which are practically unforfeitable, the following suggestion may be worth consideration. This is briefly that the system of granting prospecting licenses be abolished, that leases be issued for any term decided on, say 20 or 30 years, to be held by labour or annual rental. That on the non-performance of the labour or non-payment of the rental the lease be thereby forfeited without recourse to any court of investigation or forfeiture. To give an opportunity to those who may be desirous of prospecting, the cost of the lease for the first year could be made the same as that of a prospecting license of equal extent, but if the lessee desired to continue his operations he should then before the close of the first year secure the continuation of the lease for another year by payment of the permanent rental, and so on. An arrangement similar to this would, on the basis of a small annual rental, of say \$1.00 an area, prove a boon to the prospector, for under the present arrangement he would pay for a prospecting license of one area for 12 months, 75 cents, then for a lease \$2.00, in all \$2.75. This secures him the ground for say two years; if he did not work, his lease would be liable to forfeiture. Under the proposed arrangement the same sum would secure to him his area for three years. This arrangement would also give the Province a revenue from the numerous unworked leases now hindering exploration and probable discovery of valuable ground in all our mining districts, stimulate the holders to work, and give a security and fixity of title to leases, which is desirable in the interests of investors. Provision could be made to protect properties on which any temporary cessation of work was necessary, or which were in litigation, and to prevent injustice to any prior occupant who had made any bona fide expenditure."

We commend these able suggestions not only to the careful consideration of the legislators of Nova Scotia but also to the local governments throughout the country, where they are equally applicable.



We invite Correspondence upon matters consistent with the character of the REVIEW.

Be as brief as possible. The writers name in all cases required as a proof of good faith.

One dozen copies of the issue containing his communication will be mailed free to any correspondent on request.

We do not hold ourselves in any way responsible for the opinions expressed in this section of the REVIEW.

The Dominion Mining Laws.

OTTAWA, 8th January, 1888.

The Editor

THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW.

SIR,—I have read with a good deal of interest Mr. Nettle's letter to you, dated the 20th ultimo. It is quite clear that Mr. Nettle has not read the Canadian Mining Regulations for himself, but has accepted as true the construction placed upon them by somebody who has had an interest in misrepresenting them. There is not a solitary provision in these Regulations which would justify Mr. Nettle's denunciation of speculative companies and land sharks, etc. There is no objection, now that Mr. Nettle is apparently an American citizen, to his praise of the laws of his own country, but I take the opportunity of saying that it would puzzle him to produce a tittle of evidence in support of his strictures on the Canadian Mining Laws which are contained in the letter addressed to your paper. Mr. Nettle condemns the \$5 entry fee imposed under the Canadian Mining Regulations, but conveniently forgets to mention that there are free miners' licenses, poll-taxes, fees to the Mining Recorder, and other specious modes of levying upon the prospector resorted to in every State and Territory of the American