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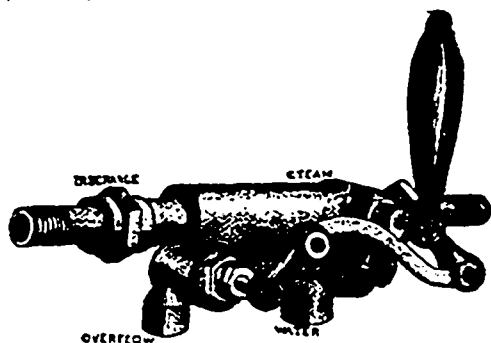
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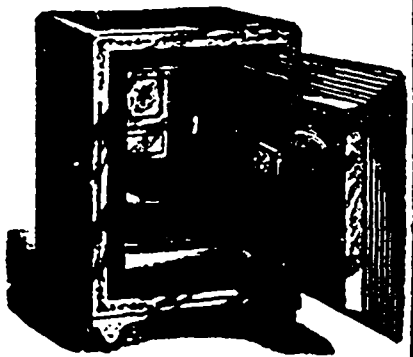
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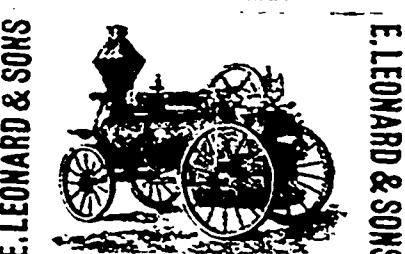
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## MINING.

**MOLEGA.**—The Minneapolis Company's property at Molega was sold by the sheriff of Queens Co. on Friday under a judgment held by Messrs. Hall and Caldwell for \$13,000.00, and was bid in by Mr. McLean, Barrister, for the Philadelphia Company. There is a splendid mill and plant on this mine, and the prospects are that it will now be vigorously worked under the able management of Mr. E. B. Douglass of the Philadelphia Company.

**MOOSE RIVER.**—We glean from the *Echo* that Mr. John Jennings, the man whose right hand was crushed so badly at the Moose River Mine a short time ago that it had to be amputated by Doctors Morris and Dixon of Musquodoboit, is improving rapidly. Mr. D. Touquoy, the proprietor of the mine, allowed Jennings' wages to go on and provided medical attendance. Mr. Touquoy also started a subscription list for Jennings, and headed it with \$100. Also that a young man named Smiley was injured at Caribou Mines on Saturday last, and Doctor Dixon of Musquodoboit was sent for.

**SHERBROOKE.**—Mining is going on on the Rockwell and Sutherland properties. Mr. John Williams is working the "Murray" lead on the latter property. J. H. McDonald has quit work on the areas west of the Mayflower until he gets his returns from the mill.

**OVENS' DISTRICT.**—The motion to dismiss the appeal in re Archibald on the ground of the insufficiency of the bail bond, was on argument before the full bench, dismissed, the judges considering the bond good.

The following letter from the *British American Citizen of Boston*, in reply to its editorial strictures on the Wilson Gold Mining Company, gives such reliable information in regard to our gold mines that we republish it in full:—

*Editor British American Citizen:*

In your issue of the 27th you take exception to the wording and inducements held out by the Wilson Gold Mining Company, who represent that they have one of the richest gold mines in Nova Scotia; but unfortunately for your readers the article in question does not state in which part of Nova Scotia this very rich mine exists.

From some years of close and personal observation I must say your points are well taken, and it is evidently very clear that the Wilson Gold Mining directors or promoters think the public still as gullible as ever; but the fact is, investors of late are becoming more careful every day as to where and how they invest their surplus funds.

It is just probable the Wilson Gold Mining Company may have a fairly good area, with fair show of leads, and the said leads showing gold fairly well; but the mere fact of samples from this mine giving an average gold value of \$742.09 to the ton is simply bluff and nonsense.

It is quite true that a choice piece picked out may assay \$742.09, or may possibly give three or four times that value, but the test of an assay has no more to do with the value of a gold mine than Mr. Wilson has to do with the movements of the Argentine Republic.

Gold quartz in Nova Scotia assaying high, and varying in assay, as a rule, will, on crushing, hardly ever yield an ounce to the ton, right along, unless in exceptionally rich cases in small leads, where it has often been known to yield two and three ounces to the ton, and at times bunches or patches of very rich ore are met with, giving from ten to twenty ounces to the ton. In ore mines in Nova Scotia I have personally inspected, the owner, at one time, took from fifty pounds of quartz sixty ounces of gold. Still it has never induced the owner to stock his mine at \$500,000, and sell stock at half price.

The plain, simple, unvarnished truth is this: for investments of fair amount of capital, with prospects of a good return on investment, the Nova Scotia gold mines present a fairly good field for operation. At times, of course, as in all mining districts, it is apt to be more than ordinarily rich, and again fall far below the hopes indulged in by the owner or investor.

The chief trouble with the gold mines of Nova Scotia is this: Parties possessing a few hundred dollars take up a number of areas in a gold district. They possibly may have funds enough to put up a small mill. Generally they are not able to do so. A certain amount of prospecting is done, resulting in the discovery of leads bearing gold in fair, and probably in most cases paying, quantities. These areas and explorations have perhaps cost the holder anywhere from two hundred and fifty to one thousand dollars. A would-be purchaser comes along, and, having capital, feels inclined to invest, and would probably pay a fair price, say five thousand dollars, for the property. The owner, in his ignorance and greed, holds it at anywhere from ten to twenty thousand dollars, and thus breaks a *bona fide* sale and prevents a legitimate work of redemption being done. That has been the chief curse to the Nova Scotia gold mining industry, and will be, I presume, while the people act the dog in-the-manger policy.

A long and careful study of the gold-mining operations in Nova Scotia leads me to believe that the average production of the quartz leads of that Province will yield about twelve to fifteen pennyweights per ton, take it all through. The question then naturally arises—Can quartz leads at this average yield be made to pay? I answer, Yes, if the operations of prospecting, development, raising quartz and having it crushed, are attended to with the same amount of care, efficiency and economy that you would demand in the prosecution of any other branch of business; otherwise the chances are that the effort will end in disaster.

I may be asked on what grounds I base my conclusion. I will try and state it briefly. The purchase of a fairly good-sized area of gold territory, prospecting, testing and erection of a mill—say fifteen stamps—including engine and boiler, should not cost to any company, presumably such a