

Work at the Hub Mine has gone on rapidly, and the management expect to raise coal by the end of this month. The water has been lowered to within 300 feet of the first level of the submarine workings, and as the volume of water is now much less it is being lowered more quickly. The head frame and bankhead is complete and the machinery is all in place. The pulleys will be hoisted this week.

The Drager life saving equipment has now all arrived, and the work of erecting the Rescue Station is being pushed. The equipment comprises ten helmet and ten mouth breathing apparatus, pneumatic smoke goggles, nose clips, oxygen refill pump, over two thousand potash cartridges, testing apparatus for CO₂, and about 1,500 feet of oxygen. The Company are arranging for the services of a competent instructor from the other side, and their Rescue Corps will presently be an accomplished fact. This innovation will cost the Coal Company between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for initial outlay, and the expenses of training and providing refills will not be inconsiderable. They will have the best Rescue Station outside of Germany, and although we fervently hope the occasion for its practical use will not arise, if ever it should the apparatus will prove of inestimable benefit, and will more than justify the expenditure. The citizens of Glace Bay will be able to boast that they have the only properly equipped Rescue Station on this side of the Atlantic. They do claim at present on picture postcards, that are printed, by the way, in Italy, that No. 2 is the "largest coal colliery" in the world.

This latest addition to the Coal Company's equipment is in line with their general policy during the past five years, a policy that is making their mines safer for the workmen every day. The abolition of the use of black powder, the introduction of "company shotfirers," in place of the pernicious system that formerly prevailed, the provision of the Ackroyd & Best electric relighting safety lamp, the attempts to introduce a safety explosive wherever possible, are a few of the things that might be named in this connection. None of these innovations but add to the general cost of mining, yet we venture to say the Company's policy is in line with all that is progressive in coal mining, and is justified and more than justified on the grounds of conservation of property and human life.

"Coal v. Steel" is about the sole topic of conversation in this neighborhood. Perhaps the only people who will benefit from the legal fraternity and the "fourth estate." Public opinion on the matter varies as the locality. Glace Bay is for Coal and Sydney for Steel. Perhaps never before has there been such an infliction of expert opinion on the newspaper readers of Cape Breton, and the old chestnut as to the three grades of liars is being trotted out afresh at every opportunity. No doubt by the time the Courts have decided the question the Caledonia workings will be drawing air from No. 6 Mine, and the surveyors will be wondering whether they have left sufficient coal in their barriers against No. 6 workings. All other matters in connection with this trial are sub judice and are better left alone—but No. 6 Mine not on the Phalen Seam? Ask a man from Schooner Pond and watch him smile! They have very fixed ideas at Schooner Pond.

QUEBEC.

Mr. A. O. Norton, Coaticook, Que., is preparing to develop the Suffield Mine at Suffield, Que., of which he is the proprietor, on a larger scale than has been hitherto done. Machinery to the value of \$20,000, including a new boiler, air compressor, and hoisting plant, has been purchased and is now being installed.

The Suffield is one of the numerous copper properties that were opened in the vicinity of Sherbrooke over forty years ago and that were subsequently closed during the long interval of low priced copper. It has long been known to contain a large body of ore generally estimated at 3 p.c. copper. But during the past year Mr. Norton has developed a large amount of ore of a higher grade said to average nearly 7 p.c.

No smelting facilities have as yet been provided. The mining work is under the direction of Capt. Wm. Jenkins.

ONTARIO.

Montreal River, July 22nd.—It was in the middle of last winter that the rush into the new Montreal River silver district began. From January on, the prospectors tramped up the Montreal River on snowshoes from Latchford, and overland from New Liskeard, to stake claims. Most of the claims in the district are "snowshoe staked," the object in most cases being to stake and record a claim and then sell it at a moderate price to some man with capital, who would prospect it in the spring. This involves, in ninety-nine out of one hundred instance, perjury in recording the claim, when one has to swear to the discovery of valuable mineral in place; but perhaps the law is defective on this point and there may be some excuse for the false oath under the circumstances. This seems to be the attitude of the government, as no action for perjury has been instituted even in the most evident and indisputable cases.

The district is swarming with prospectors at present, and on claims where valuable discoveries have been made, and in the vicinity of these claims, considerable stripping and blasting is being done.

Silver has been found, so far, in two places, at White's, about 7 miles north-west of Lady Evelyn Lake; and in the township of James and the adjoining township of Smyth, about 25 miles north of the former. At White's, which Prof. W. G. Miller visited last spring, the vein shows at one place a width of about three inches of native silver. There is an equally good, or perhaps, a better showing on Downey and Darragh's claim in James. In Smyth there are several veins showing an inch or so of native silver. In some of these veins in Smyth, the silver is in a crystallized form, having a beautiful arborescent or branching structure. The usual occurrence, so far as noted, is in nuggets, in wires forming a sort of filigree effect, or in flakes scattered through the gangue. The gangue minerals are calcite, quartz and barite. In some veins calcite and quartz occur together. In one place there has been found quartz with cavities from which have been weathered out crystals of calcite.

The veins in the Montreal River district, so far as they have been explored up to the present, show a marked difference from most of those found in Cobalt. The Cobalt veins have some degree of uniformity in their width and in their silver values, whereas the veins in the new district are extremely erratic in these respects. A light crack will develop into a vein of considerable width in a short distance, and a vein which in one place carries no silver, or almost none, will a few feet off be what is ordinarily called "solid silver." Keeping these facts in view, it will be seen that the value of the veins is extremely problematical. If the pockets containing silver are large enough and frequent enough, the properties will no doubt prove very valuable. There has not been enough development work done so far to determine anything as to this point.

The predominating rocks in the new silver area, so far as examined, are the Lower Huronian quartzite, and diabase. There is also Laurentian granite and a little Keewatin. The granite areas are, of course, rough. The quartzite areas are