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MINING.

There is very little new to report in the way of gold mining. The properties are being in some instances steadily worked, but in the way of opening up new mines not much could be expected at this time of the year. At Waverly the Lake View Company, managed by Mr. A. A. Hayward, has crushed considerable low grade ore, but the mill has been temporarily shut down to make some needed repairs and to replace the cams of the battery which gave out.

The property sold by Mr. Gao and others is being opened up under the direction of Mr. Hardman, and the Windsor Junction mine is also being worked.

MONTAGUE.—The Annand Mine continues its usual yield, and the Ross and other properties owned by Mr. Charles Annand and his associates are being thoroughly developed.

The old Symonds-Kaye property, now bonded to Messrs. Oland & Skerry, has so far proved a paying mine, and Mr. Skerry is now engaged opening up a new lead on higher ground than the ones lately worked.

GAY'S RIVER.—Considerable development has been done here, and 10 of the 50 stamps in the new mill are now ready for crushing.

MOOSE RIVER.—Mr. Touquoy has had his mill shut down during the past month, and so for the first time for a long while back the regular monthly returns from this rich mine have not come to hand.

Mr. Jennings, part of whose arm had to be amputated through its being crushed in the mill, has, we are now happy to state, quite recovered from the effects of the accident, the stump of the arm being entirely healed, allowing him to attend to his duties in the mill as heretofore.

Mr. Andrew McGregor and Mr. William Bruce of the district are keeping unusually quiet just now, but will doubtless be heard from later.

CARIBOU.—For some time there have been rumors that several of the principal mines in this district were about to change hands, but these have not as yet materialized.

The Herbert Dixon property is about the only one now being worked and it has become very valuable.

RENFREW.—The damage done to this property by fire has been repaired and active work may now be looked for.

Work on the Free Claims has been abandoned.

At Uniacke, South Uniacke and Central Rawdon the operations are largely of a developing nature, and there is little new to report.

The gold returns for 1890, as previously stated in THE CRITIC, are likely to be less than in 1889, the approximate total being something over 23,000 ounces. The revenue, however, derived from the issuing of lease and prospecting licenses is larger, proving that last year was largely a speculative one.

We are pleased to note the sign of prosperity in our contemporary *Financial and Mining Record*, of New York, which is shown by an increase in size to thirty-two pages and its handsome and neat appearance in its new type. This is a weekly publication which claims to give more complete and tersely arranged reports of the production, consumption and commercial movement of the money metals than any other periodical at home or abroad. It contains articles of exceptional value for reference and of particular interest on all industrial matters, including mining, pertaining to the development and growth of the country.

The statement of the receipts of coal by water at the four principal ports of the St. Lawrence during the year just closed, given elsewhere in our columns, afford an interesting study at a moment when the question of reciprocity in this particular is being agitated. The arguments used by those who favor this movement are several. It is said that the United States is the true geographical market for Lower Ports coal, and that their restrictions which confine the output of Canadian collieries to their own country are vexatious and hamper the industry, whereas if done away with the loss of the St. Lawrence market would be more than counterbalanced by the large demand that would arise from the Atlantic ports, etc. Regarding the first, its soundness is only apparent, for it will be readily seen that the American coast market is equally contiguous to the home producing centers from which it is at present supplied, and the competition would be as keen as that the business would not, at all events for a long time to come, amount to very much—a fact that nullifies their second proposition also. This is proved, moreover, by the light of actual experience. In the days of free trade there was no great prosperity, but on the contrary the industry languished and made little or no progress, and it was not until 1879, when a duty of 50 cents per ton was imposed by the Dominion Government, that affairs began to look up. Subsequently the tariff was raised to 60 cents, owing to an increase in the imports in mining plant, etc., and at that time the annual output of Nova Scotia has steadily increased until it has reached the present figures. The records of the two periods of reciprocity and protection contrast strongly when placed side by side. In 1869, the coal sales of Nova Scotia were 511,795 tons, and in 1879, in which a duty was imposed, 688,626 tons; an increase of only 176,831 tons; while in the next ten years we find the coal sales to have increased to 1,553,171 tons, or a gain of 866,481 tons—sufficient and incontrovertible evidence.