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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Editorial	537
The Gas Fields of New Brunswick	537
A Portfolio of Mines	538
Nova Scotian Coal Outputs	538
Publicity for the Geological Congress	538
The Coalfields of Alberta	538
A. I. M. E. Affairs	539
Ventilation in Rand Mines	539
The Absorption of Gold by Amalgamated Copper Plates	540
Ethics or Expediency?	540
Editorial Notes	543
Coal Stripping in Alberta, by D. B. Dowling	545
The Action of Alumina in Slags	546
Physiological Effects of Carbon Monoxide, by Prof. Henry S. Munroe	547
Early Coal Mining in Glace Bay District, by J. C. Mitchell	552
Diamond Drilling at Point Mamainse	553
The Mineral Resources of British Columbia	556
The Rate of Burning of Fuse	557
Current Technical Literature	559
Personal and General	561
Deterioration of Coal in Storage	564
Special Correspondence	

THE GAS FIELDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Rarely in the history of Canada has there been such an addition to the wealth and potentialities of a large settled area as in the case of the region centering in Moncton, New Brunswick.

It may be well first to glance at the geographical situation of Moncton. The city has its site in the rich valley of the Petitecodiac River, a large tidal stream flowing into Chignecto Bay, which is an arm of the Bay of Fundy. Easy harbourage for large steamers is available on the river during most of the year. As a railway centre Moncton is easily the most important in Eastern Canada. Its manufactures are growing rapidly, and it is surrounded by a singularly fertile farming and fruit-raising country.

St. John lies 90 miles to the west; Sackville, about 40 miles south; Amherst, one of the most flourishing manufacturing towns in Nova Scotia, 38 miles in the same direction; whilst the distances to Truro, New Glasgow and Pictou do not exceed 150 miles. All these towns are on the Intercolonial Railway system, and that system has its headquarters in Moncton. In all of these towns, also, new and important manufacturing enterprises have sprung up of late and are being organized to such an extent as to indicate a strong industrial revival.

From even this meagre outline, it will be seen that the discovery of natural gas in the vicinity of Moncton (under such conditions, and in such quantity as to warrant fully the statement that the supply is fully adequate to any demand that may arise for years to come) is fraught with enormous significance.

The present available supply measures about 60,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. This amount can be obtained, under natural pressures ranging from 200 to 600 pounds per square inch, from 17 wells drilled within an area of three square miles. Incidentally, the rights of the owners extend over 10,000 square miles, much of which is probable or possible territory. At present gas has been piped to Moncton where it is consumed to the extent of about 2,000,000 cubic feet per day. Even the casual visitor is impressed with the metamorphosis that Moncton has undergone since this event. The gas is used by the consumer at a pressure of less than 10 ounces. The prices per thousand cubic feet are less than half those obtaining in other cities. The gas itself is clean and of very high calorific value.

In a forthcoming issue we shall devote a considerable amount of space to this new field, and to its bearing upon the Maritime Provinces. Here we mean