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MINING.

The *Canadian Mining and Mechanical Review* publishes Mr. Lithgow's letter in reply to the *Boston Transcript's* argument that coal could be landed in Boston from Cape Breton at a profit at two dollars a ton, but in its comments thereon deliberately mis-states the position of THE CRITIC on the coal question. It says "the Halifax Critic is at present in that delightful position known as 'sitting on the fence,' with regard to the question of reciprocity in coal, inclining one ear to the parties most interested, the colliery owners, while the other is open, with great impartiality, to the voice of the charmer on the New England coast. It produced an article recently from the *Boston Transcript* which proved conclusively, to its own satisfaction, that Nova Scotia coal can be landed on the wharf at Boston for \$2 per ton at a profit." If the Editor of the *Mining Review* had read THE CRITIC's article he could not have made the above statement, as we quoted from the *Transcript* simply to prove the absurdity of the arguments advanced in favor of reciprocity with the United States in coal, and also published a letter of Mr. Lithgow's pointing out that for every ton of coal shipped to New England we would lose two tons to Quebec. All readers of the Critic know the determined stand we have taken against reciprocity in coal, and that we have repeatedly attacked the government for not increasing the duty so as to assure us the Ontario market, and to them the injustice and absurdity of the position assigned us on the coal question by the *Mining Review* will be apparent.

The *Mining Review* is in many respects an able journal, but in the above case it has committed the unpardonable offence of criticising where it was ignorant of the facts, and of imputing motives highly discreditable and directly opposed to those that have guided us in our treatment of the coal question.

The gold mining outlook is not as bright as it might be, but still it is only the darkness preceding the dawn of much better times in the future.

In many cases last year's operations were marred by the most reckless expenditure on properties that showed nothing to warrant it. Promoters who had no real knowledge of mining, but were the most plausible of talkers, succeeded in securing large sums from misguided investors, while prudent, skilled miners who owned really good properties could not raise the capital to work them. Those who invested and lost have our sympathy, but still they have no one to blame but themselves, as had they shown the slightest prudence and made enquiries before investing they would never have put a dollar into a number of mines that turned out worthless last year.

If the large beds or deposits of conglomerate which were slightly developed before winter stopped operations turn out to be as valuable as indications point them to be, there is a great future for gold mining in this Province, as the material is found in almost inexhaustible quantities. If the quality is only good, although of low grade, it will warrant the putting up of extensive stamp mills and the employment of every labor-saving device, and worked on this large scale the rewards will be ample and the yearly yield of gold something to be proud of.

The Gay's River district is now in a fair way of being tested, and if the results are favorable a new era will be reached in gold mining in this Province and the clouds, if clouds there be, will all have a golden lining.

CARIBOU DISTRICT.—The Dixon gold mine in the Caribou district yielded in February 72 ozs of gold.

MOLEGA.—Mr. John McGuire, formerly Superintendent of the Malaga Mining Co.'s mine, accompanied by his wife, is spending a few days with his many friends here.

Mr. Wade, Manager of the Malaga Co., has started his mill, and having a large quantity of quartz on the different dumps, there is no doubt that the output will equal any that has been made from that property. He has also put on a large number of men. Having his working shaft on the famous Rabbit Lead to a good depth, we are assured that the mill will be kept running to its full capacity.

The Parker-Douglas Mill and mine is working with a very promising outlook in the future.

No doubt many of the unprospected claims in the Molega district will receive due attention as the season advances.

Mr. Gilbert Parker, President of the P. & D. Mining Co., was here this week.—*Gold Hunter.*

SALMON RIVER.—It is reported that Charles F. Mott has finally parted with his interest in the Dufferin Gold Mine for \$40,000.