

## MINING.

**LOW GRADE ONES**—For every well-known lead in this country, producing from one-half ounce to two and three ounces per ton of quartz, we have hundreds of leads and millions of tons which drop down into the digit penny-weights, but which, under favorable circumstances, could be worked at a profit. Under the present system of leasing areas, most of these leads are held by men who have not put up any capital, and who have no intention of working their claims. No miner could undertake to work low grade ore upon which there was a capital indebtedness for any considerable amount. These mines, in fact, have in themselves no great intrinsic value, and can only be of real value to those employed in operating them. Our present system of leasing areas is so indefinite, so unsatisfactory, that, unless changed, the mining of low-grade ore will not be carried on in the present century; but if our miners were allowed free access to such deposits, they would not be able, under existing circumstances, to do anything more than clear expenses. The Dominion Government, by its heavy duties upon machinery and explosives, and the Local Government by its exaction of royalties, bleeds the honest miner at every pore, added to which the cost of milling low grade ore, is altogether out of proportion to that in other countries. Handicapped by the speculator's lease, unduly taxed by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and hindered by the lack of the most improved milling machinery, our tributors and other mine operators are fighting against strong odds, but they nevertheless work hopefully on, awaiting the dawn of a more auspicious era, when the speculator finds his occupation gone,—the Governments realize that a tax upon labor checks development, and the application of new and improved methods of crushing, shall enable them to realize a fair return for their expenditure of time and labor.

EAST CHEZZETCOOK, June 19th, 1886.

To the Editor of the Critic:

SIR,—Having passed a few days in this neighborhood I have determined to drop you a line as to mining prospects in this locality. The Oxford mine, with its complete crusher, the latest improvements in mining machinery, and its valuable property, will repay a visit. It is keeping up its old record as a steady producer, and under able management is being fully developed. A considerable amount of exploratory work is being done, and it is likely that as the old leads are exhausted new ones will be struck, and that this most successful mining venture will continue to reward its shareholders with good dividends.

A rich strike has been made on the Cogswell Island property, which immediately adjoins the Oxford, and it is now certain that these gentlemen and their associates (who have been most persevering in their efforts to develop our mines) will reap the reward their energy and enterprise deserve.

The veteran John Anderson, the discoverer of this district, still keeps at work, but with his usual caution has little to say about his prospects. John is a great hand at elections, and in the late contest rather stole a march on the Liberal-Conservative canvassers. Finding that the district was likely to go against him, he made a house to house canvass accompanied by a pretty girl. Whether the English rule of a kiss for a vote was adopted, I cannot say, but it was a curious anomaly to find a young woman willing to work against the union cause. May she live to be converted and to see her efforts rewarded as they were at the polls—by a tie.

The Fielding Government having built a good road into the mine, the miners were a unit for repeal, and proved by their votes, that while others may be ungrateful, a favor to a miner is never forgotten.

Considerable work is being done at the head of the harbor, and I was given to understand the prospects were so good that a leading Halifax capitalist is negotiating for the purchase of the property.

Mr. Geo. Rolands, who built the Oxford crusher, and who stands unrivalled in his business, has been secured to put up a crusher on a new district in the West, and leaves in a few days to commence work.

The outlook for this district is most encouraging, and good returns may be looked for at the Mines' Office the coming season. P.

A rich strike was made in the Kearsago the other day at a depth of about seventy feet. An eight-inch vein was uncovered which has widened to 18 inches. The ore taken from this place is very rich.—*Calico Print.*

**COAL**—The vegetable origin of coal has, for many years, been accepted as correct, but under the broad light of chemical science the accuracy of this supposed truth is now questioned.

**PRINCE WILLIAM, YORK CO., N. B.**—The old antimony mine in this place is again to be worked after a stoppage of several years. This company are preparing to commence operations at once on a more extended scale than ever before.

Recently discovered gold mines at Boemmeloë, in Norway, are said to promise rich rewards for the gold diggers.

Asbestos is a fibrous form of hornblende capable of being spun into yarn and woven into fabrics.

During the calendar year 1885 the United States coined \$27,773,012.50 of gold, \$28,962,176.20 of silver, and \$191,622.04 of minor coins, a total of \$56,926,810.74.

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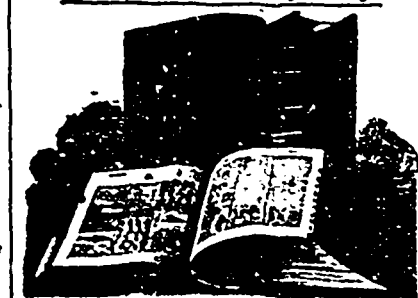
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