

MINING—Continued.

DEEP SINKING IN NOVA SCOTIA GOLD MINES—The question as to whether the gold bearing mines in this Province carry gold to any great depth, is one which has presented itself to the minds of many of our gold miners, and one upon which they have anxiously pondered, particularly after they have followed a rich vein, and extracted and milled the ore to a depth of say 175 feet, which is near the average depth of the majority of the underground gold working, but which has never been practically solved at the point of the pick and drill, which is the only practical solution possible.

To say nothing of the boundless mineral wealth of Nova Scotia, represented by her inexhaustible deposits of coal and iron, I believe, it is one of the richest, if not the very richest spot on earth, in gold, and at the risk of seeming to indulge in glittering generalities, I nevertheless confidently predict, that the time is not far distant when the fishing industry of this country, great and important as it now is, will rank second at least, to that of gold mining. The future of this industry will be in milling the large deposits of low grade ore now in sight near the surface, and in deep mining upon veins already developed, and known to have been rich to a depth of from one to three hundred feet, and there abandoned because they ceased to pay. But in no instance has the vein "pinched out." The strike or chimney of gold has simply been lost, or gone out, and the vein in most instances remains perfect at the lowest level of the workings. In writing upon this subject, comparisons with other gold fields are natural and necessary, and the most applicable comparison to-day of the Nova Scotia gold belt, is with that of the Grass Valley belt of California, for the simple reason, that the geological formation of the two zones are identically the same. Therefore, taking the results of deep mining there, we have a right to believe that they represent what deep mining here would develop. I will mention but one Grass Valley mine here, viz.: the great "Idaho" mine. The main shaft of this mine was sunk 694 feet on the vein, but through quartz almost absolutely barren of gold, before an ounce of gold was extracted. And yet, since reaching that point, the mine has produced over \$6,000,000 in bullion.

Other notable instances of the rich results of persistent deep mining, are the Hale and Norcross, Gould and Curry, Yellow Jacket, Consolidated Virginia, Consolidated Imperial, Union Consolidated, and other mines on the famous Comstock lode of Nevada. These mines range in depth from 1000 to 3300 feet, and to-day a combination shaft is being sunk upon this lode, already having reached to the depth of 3000 feet, and sinking will be continued until a level is reached 3,500 feet below the surface of the earth; and while the output of these Comstock mines now aggregates \$450,000,000 it should be borne in mind that there are millions of feet of ground in the upper levels untouched, and which will remain forever untouched, because unprofitable, and that in the history of all of them there have been times when the rock for months was almost worthless, and the outlook was far darker and more discouraging than has attended the working of any mine that has ever been operated in Nova Scotia. There is one fatal theory wholly groundless that has served to handicap gold mining in Nova Scotia, viz.: that these veins are merely gashes, and continue to no depth, consequently, immediately the strike has been lost, in the majority of instances, notwithstanding the mine itself has remained intact and the walls perfect, the work has been abandoned, the mine allowed to flood, and the surface and other works left to decay. In this progressive age, and particularly on this continent, it seems incredible that these rich veins of Nova Scotia should have been left so long untried and untested by deep mining. Inasmuch as the properties are all held under this prevailing system of lease from the Crown, on a two per cent. royalty, which renders them an immediate or direct source of revenue to the government, is it not unreasonable to expect, that were the subject properly presented to the government, they would see the economy and utility of subsidizing some one of the many gold mines for the purpose of sinking a deep shaft. The opportunities are numerous and extraordinary, where, in sinking one shaft, opportunities would be afforded at different points down, by crosscutting for a distance of from 100 to 200 feet, of prospecting and testing from five to twelve different veins, running parallel to the one on which the shaft was being sunk, the water of course all converging to the shaft, and it would thus be handled but once for all of the workings.

The question would at once arise, where shall this shaft be sunk and upon whose property? There is already one company carrying on active mining, which is ready to subscribe \$10,000, provided the government will duplicate the amount, the money to be expended under the supervision of the Provincial Mining Engineer, or Inspector, in sinking a deep shaft upon their property. But should the government decide to make an expenditure for the above purpose, doubtless tenders would be invited, and it is quite probable other companies, or individuals, would make better offers than the above.

ARIZONA.—The mines of this Territory the past year have shown a considerable falling off in bullion products, the cost of mining being higher than the nature of the business will warrant. Taking also, the heavy discount on silver in question, most of their ores have to be smelted in furnaces requiring large supplies of fuel, which is a scarce commodity. A revival, however, is hoped for in the newly discovered district of Oniojoia and one or two other points in the Territory.

The estimated production of silver in Colorado for 1885 is given at \$13,000,000, an apparent decline of \$3,000,000 from the product of 1884.

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**The Travelers
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Cash Capital, \$600,000

Assets,	\$8,417,038.20
Liabilities,	6,321,199.30
Surplus,	\$2,095,838.90

Life Department.

No. of Policies written to date,	413
New Life Insurance written in 1885,	\$7,645.50
Gain during year in amount in force,	\$2,477.50
Paid Life Policy - Holders to date,	\$3,200,112.00
Paid Life Policy-Holders in 1885,	\$179,412.00

Accident Department.

No. Policies written to date,	1,185
No. written in 1885,	162
No. Claims paid to date,	137
No. paid in 1885,	12
Total Claims paid	\$8,145,125.00
Amount paid in 1885,	\$885,912.00

GAINED IN ASSETS. GAINED IN SURPLUS. GAINED IN NUMBER OF POLICIES ISSUED. GAINED IN LIFE INSURANCE WRITTEN. GAINED IN AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE FORCE.

All claims paid immediately on receipt satisfactory proofs. All Policies contain Equitable Non-Feture provisions. Accident Claims paid at rate in event of occupation being changed.

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