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MINING.

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA.—The gold industry continues to be carried on with the same interest as hitherto, but during the fortnight very little of the precious metal has been brought to town. The export to date amounts to 8,084 ozs. 18 dwt. 18 grs., valued at \$148,112.22. Number of registered laborers at the present time engaged at the diggings is 1,610.

To the Editor of the Critic:

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to see F. W. Christie's explanation of the Mining Law in reference to staking off ground for prospecting; but I think he has left out the most difficult part of the prospecting law to understand. Section 10 plainly states that one area shall measure 150 feet lengthwise of the lot and 250 feet across, and shall be called class No. 1.

Section 37 states one can take up any number of areas up to 100. Section 39 states, that up to ten areas of class No. 1 they shall be 50c. per area and 25c. for every area in addition to that. One would naturally suppose that 10 areas would measure 1500 feet x 250 feet, but it seems one is bound to take them soldier-fashion, viz., 2 deep, 500 feet wide by 750 feet on the lead, at a cost of \$1.50 for every 150 feet, instead of 50c., as the law reads. I am still at a loss to know how to take up more than 10 areas, so as to secure them for 25c. per area. Must I say "as you were," and take up another 500 feet x 750 feet, or must I "reform Company" and take them 4 deep.

Yours,

OLD MINER.

THE FIRST GOLD CRUSHER IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The first gold crusher in Nova Scotia is still to be seen in Mooseland mine. Gold is said to have been first discovered on the right bank of Tangier River, just a few yards east of where now stands an eight stamp crusher in Mooseland mine. The discovery was made by two men on their way from Musquodoboit, to Tangier River, toward the sea shore. They, having some knowledge of gold mining out west, and seeing a similar white stone in the river bank at Mooseland, examined it, and found it rich with gold. It was, of course necessary before any extensive operations could be undertaken, to erect a crusher, and without any great expense. They succeeded in doing so by finding a thick heavy slab of whin, which was dropped there during the glacial period. The top stone is of a similar material, and light to turn, by an iron hand-crank. Although now looked at as a curiosity, it has been the means of bringing crushers in the neighborhood, run by steam and water power, the discovery of more gold mines, the building of nice villages in this district, which was thirty years ago a howling wilderness. From Mooseland mines there is a good road to the sea shore, to Musquodoboit Valley, and through Mooseland settlement, a small settlement about a mile north of Mooseland mines, chiefly of English speaking people. In this settlement is a saw mill, school, and an Episcopal church. The scenery of the valley, and more especially of the lakes close by, is grand. On a clear day they mirror a double scene of the tall long-stemmed silvery birch, which gently taper to their shores. Going back to Mooseland mine, I find several mines are at work under the management of Mr. John Murphy, an experienced gold miner of Tangier, and Mr. H. G. Stenshorpe, of Halifax. They have to contend with a great deal of drift, but are bound to find a lead, of which many specimens of quartz are met with, peppered with gold.

Yours,

EXPLORE.

COAL.—It is estimated that it takes an acre of coal seam 8 feet thick to supply 100,000 bushels of coal. At these figures a thousand acres of coal beds are mined every year in the Pittsburgh district of Pennsylvania.

COAL DISCOVERY.—From the *Baddeck Reporter* we learn that the Terminal City Co. have been successful in finding coal with the diamond drill, two seams of 7 and 11 feet respectively having been bored.

HARD COAL.—The *Coal Trade Journal*, of New York, expects an advance in the price of hard coal in September, on account of the advance in railroad tolls.

CAPE BRETON COAL TRADE.—The North Sydney correspondent of the *Island Reporter* writes of the condition of the coal trade as follows:—"The coal trade around here this year does not seem to be as brisk as it used to be. Some of the mine managers say that it is difficult to get vessels or steamers to charter for carrying coal, unless at a high price, and thus they are not able to give, owing to the low figure at which they have made their contracts. However, it is expected that from this out there will be a great demand for coal, and that the times will be much better every way. All the coal that was banked last winter in the different localities, shipped before navigation closes, the prospects for next year in the coal trade will not be very encouraging. There is now a great talk current of forming a coal combination, and I do not see what is to prevent it if the party agitating the subject have capital enough to purchase all the coal mines in Nova Scotia they propose. The coal mine proprietors will certainly sell if they get a fair offer. Whether such combinations will be to the benefit of the laboring classes and the country generally will remain to be seen, but combinations in general are not best for any country."

The managers of Pictou collieries consider the policy of the Cape Breton men in taking a very low price on contracts as bad, will not pay, and appear to be done merely to raise a little money for present necessities.

COPPER.—The annual copper production of the world is 273,000 tons, and the famous French syndicate controls 215,000 tons of it, and has a practical and huge monopoly.