

## MINING.

**UNTOLD WEALTH.**—Can it be that we have in Nova Scotia immense deposits of gold without the fact having been yet discovered. The immense extent of our gold fields is admitted by all practical miners but as yet no fair test of their value has been made. The Provincial Government is interested in the development of our gold mines, as it receives a royalty upon each and every ounce of gold produced. Could the output be quadrupled, the government would receive from this source a revenue four times as great as that which it now enjoys. Under these circumstances we think the government should be willing to assist in defraying the expenses of testing deep mining in this Province by sinking a shaft to the depth of 1,000 to 1,200 feet. The immense possibilities which might result from such an enterprise fully warrant the government taking up the suggestion with cordiality. We have faith to believe that the sinking of a shaft such as proposed, would prove the existence of a second pay streak, and should it do so it will be difficult to over-estimate the benefits which would accrue to our people. There would be a boom in mining properties compared with which the boom of 26 years ago would dwindle into insignificance. Let the government give this matter the consideration it deserves.

**CONVENTION OF GOLD MINERS.**—A correspondent urges us to advocate through the mining columns of THE CRITIC the advisability of gold mine owners and those interested in mining, holding a convention in Halifax. We have talked the matter over with several successful miners, and they all agree that such a convention would be advantageous, especially as through it the government might be advised as to some needed changes in our existing mining laws. We believe that such a convention could easily be arranged, if a few of the leading miners, who are frequently in the city, would take the initiative steps. Will not Messrs Baker, DeCamp, Ross, Annand, Duplessis, Archibald, Mott, Hardman, Hayward, Touquoy, and Norton second this move for a gold miners convention.

**AS THINGS ARE.**—At this season of the year gold mining operations are comparatively slack, and it is therefore difficult to furnish our readers with the customary quota of news items with respect to this growing industry. We understand that the active prospecting carried on in Lunenburg and Queens during the past autumn has resulted in the discovery of several promising leads. Our informant says that nothing will be done to develop these leads before spring, but that the lucky owners are making arrangements to put up the requisite machinery, so soon as the snow shall have disappeared in the country. From Pubnico comes a rumor as yet without direct confirmation, of a bonanza lead having been discovered in that locality. In other parts of the province nothing worthy of note has transpired, but on all sides, miners express their satisfaction with the results of the past year's labor, and feel hopeful that the output of the present year will beat the record.

It always gives us great pleasure to record any evidence of prosperity among the mines of the Province. We are pleased to learn of the arrival in the city on Wednesday last of two bricks of gold, one from the Salmon River mine, and one from the Rawdon mine. The former brick weighed 1,297 ozs, and the latter 155 ozs.

The owners of the McGuire gold mining property at Whiteburn, Queens Co., advertise for contractors to undertake the sinking of shafts upon the property. For full particulars, apply to John D. McClearn, Agent, Liverpool, N. S.

Having fully laid the plans of the Eastern Development Co. before the Halifax business men, Capt. Gragg has returned to Boston and New York on business connected with the enterprise. He will return here in a few weeks to get the decision of our people about supporting the enterprise by subscribing to the bonds. Several have intimated their willingness to subscribe but Capt. Gragg concluded to defer opening his list until his return. In the meantime, our people will have time to further consider this important matter and watch the condition of the copper market.

Washington Territory as a producer of precious metals, occupies but a small place in the list of mining sections. Coal is mined and large quantities seek this coast for consumption. Iron ore also enters into her productions with fair results.

**OREGON.**—Although there are many auriferous quartz lodes in many parts of the State, yet the production of this metal is limited to about \$1,000,000 per year, mostly from placer mines. Coal can be found in large quantities. Shipments from Coos Bay are made regularly the year round.

The Lake Superior companies have made contracts within the past few days with home manufacturers for a large amount of ingot copper for delivery next year. According to good authority, 10,000,000 pounds were contracted for at 11½ cents—an advance of fully half a cent upon what moderate lots were selling for one month ago.

The boring of artesian wells in the basin of the Mississippi tells that the floor of an ocean at one cm was 3,000 feet below St. Louis; that the lower silurian strata were first laid down as sediment on the ocean's floor, then the upper silurian, then the devonian, the sub-carboniferous and lower, middle and upper coal series.

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