MADOC GOLD REGION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BELLEVILLE, April 27th, 1868.

Although winter is still lingering in the lap of spring, and seems reluctant to retreat finally to his icy fastness in the Arctic regions, yet the improvement in the weather has had a good effect upon mining operations, and work is being rapidly resumed in many of the mines which were laid in last fall. New prospectings are also being made, and other veins are not unfrequently met with, which convey to the eyes of their discoverers such "indications" as lead them to indulge in golden visions; and though, of course, many of them eventuate in disappointment, yet some promising lodes have been found, which, if the reduction process confirm the result of the several assays which have been made, will enrich their fortunate finders.

The most remarkable of these is the quartz vein on the 16th lot of the 11th concession of Marmora, which I mentioned in my last letter. Since then two assays have been made from this vein. The first was made for the satisfaction of the assayer himself, upon a few rejected specimens contributed by various individuals. The total quantity operated upon was 7½oz. avordupois, which yielded eighty-four hundredths of a grain of gold, or at the rate of $154 44-100ths per ton of 2,000lbs. The second assay was a quantity of 15lbs. taken in the lump from the surface of the vein; the yield was 13·20 grain (13 20-100ths), or at the rate of $73 32-100ths per ton. These assays were made by simple amalgamation, and should approximate closely to the result of the mill process. The ownership of the lot was claimed by several persons, but instead of going to law about it, I hear that the claimants are about to settle the matter amicably among themselves. In the meantime Mr. Feigel, the discoverer of the vein, who is also the occupier of the land upon which it is situated, has covered up the lode, to prevent specimen hunters from carrying it away wholesale.

The new machinery of the Richardson Mine was put in motion last week, and has so far worked successfully. The manager intends to clean up about the end of this week, so that we shall have some authentic results for my next.

The engine for the Bay State Company was sent off last week, and they will commence to crush very soon, as they are pushing on their preparations with commendable vigour. They adopt the Freiburg system of amalgamation in revolving barrels.

An assay from the Merchants' Union Mine gave $12 50-100ths of free gold, by amalgamation.

I have, for some time, intended to notice a lecture delivered by Professor Chapman before the Mechanics' Institute, in which he controverts the assertion "that small assays are of little practical use in determining the actual value of a gold bearing vein." As this is an opinion which I have frequently expressed, and still hold, I have a few words to say in support of the same. An assay conducted in the manner described by Professor Chapman, and made by so skilful and practical a manipulator as himself, would undoubtedly be worthy of all credit, and would be perfectly conclusive if the gold were equally diffused throughout the gangue; but in our gold-bearing rocks the metal is very unequally distributed, and it would require a considerable number of such assays from each vein to give even a reasonable approximation to their productive capability. Again, if the material to be reduced was free gold, contained in clean quartz, the result of the reduction process might come pretty close up to the fire assay; but the ores of this region are so mixed up with antimonial, arsenical, curpriferous, and common pyrites, with grey copper and bismuth ores, that they are in many cases so recusant to the various forms of mercurial amalgamation, which is the common mode of extracting the gold from its matrix, that in very few cases will the mill process take out more than 50 per cent. of the quantity shewn by the fire assay; and in some cases, where the gold is chiefly contained in the sulphurets, not more than three or four per cent. of the gold actually present can be extracted in the mills, the average not being higher than 25 to 30 per cent.; (some experienced operators place it even lower than this.) And as it is only in rare instances that gold ores can be profitably worked by fire process on a large scale, I must still hold that, until we shall discover some easier, cheaper and more effective method of separating the metal from the gangue, fire assays are scarcely reliable indicators of the real value of our ores, and that a single small assay, however carefully conducted, has but little chance of proving a faithful index to the economic worth of any vein; also, that as the reduction of the ores is in most cases performed by amalgamation the assay ought to be made in the same manner.

In my next I shall describe the mode of assay which I consider best calculated to afford the closest approximation to good mill work, and at the same time to shew the total amount of gold and silver contained in any description of gangue.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD.—Kingston, April 19.—Livingstone's tailor shop, Princess street; damage $1,500; insured in North British and Mercantile for $500 on the stock.

St. John, April 20.—A large two story house on Britain street; no insurance: fire originated from a chimney.

Belleville, April 21.—A frame dwelling on the Murney estate; no particulars as to insurance; fire the work of an incendiary.

Brantford, April 18.—A stable near the residence of Mrs. J. C. Nellis; loss unimportant; cause incendiarism.

Brighton, Ont., April 28.—A fire broke out in the store of S. P. Gross, and extended to C. E. Bullock's grocery store, R. Barker's drug store and dwelling, and two stores of T. Webb. C. E. Bullock's loss will be not less than $500. S. P. Gross' loss about $3,500; insured for $2,500. R. Barker's loss $4,000; no insurance. Webb's loss will be fully $3,500. Albert Gross lost a quantity of furniture, and Mrs. Clute, who occupied rooms over Gross' store, lost everything. Two of her children narrowly escaped the burning building; origin unknown.

Sarnia, April 28.—McWhinney's tannery and P. McMahon's grocery store consumed; also, McGlagan's grocery store injured; total loss unknown; mostly covered by insurance, but no further particulars. The fire originated in a stable.

St. Martin's, Quebec, April 23.—Twelve houses and forty-two barns, stables, &c., were completely destroyed. The total loss, including stock, grain, hay, &c., will reach $30,000; no information as to insurance.

Copetown, Ont., April 15.—Shop and barn of W. Williams; also barn of G. Fields; Williams' shop insured for $300; Field's barn for $200.

Truro, Nova Scotia, April 21.—Several buildings on Prince Street, on which there was some insurance, including $400 in the Royal; there were no fire engines and no means of extinguishing the fire.

Montreal, April 24.—Dr. Bernard's house, occupied by J. Muir, Dorchester Avenue; insured for 1,800; cause believed to be incendiarism.

Hamilton, April 25.—House on Rebecca Street, owned by Mrs. Craig, and that of Mr. McAndrew; Craig insured; McAndrew's loss $600; no insurance.

Owen Sound, April 25.—Miss Harrington's building on Poulett Street, occupied by T. C. Stephens and Spenser Bros., furniture mostly removed; Stephens, no insurance; Spenser $300 in British America Assurance Company.

MARINE RECORD.—April 16.—Schooner *Erie*, the oldest vessel on the lakes; value and insurance not stated.

Long Point, Lake Erie, April 19.—Schooner *Arcturus*; cargo 16,000 bushels malt, valued at $40,000, a total loss, insured for $38,000; vessel was worth $12,000, insured for $5,000.

Milwaukee, April 19.—Brig *Monitor*; feared she would prove a total loss; insured for $6,000.

Detroit, April 17.—Propellor *Genessee Chief*, burned to the waters edge; valued at $28,000, insurance $15,000. Also schooner *Republic* caught fire from propeller; valued at $30,000 to $12,000, partially insured. Also schooner *J. H. Hartzell*, damaged to the extent of $5,000 and insured. Also on the 15th the schooner *E. M. Peck* and crew; valued at $8,000; insurance not stated.

Ottawa, April.—Canal boat *Beaver* considerably damaged; supposed to be accidental.

Milwaukee, April 24.—Schooner *Gertrude* bound from Chicago to Buffalo with 19,500 bushels corn was sunk in deep water, valued at $20,000.

OCEAN MARINE LOSSES FOR MARCH.—The losses by fire, wreck, collision or other disaster at sea during March amounted to thirty-nine vessels, valued, without their cargoes, at $1,478,800. There were lost—two steamers, three ships, six barks. eight brigs and twenty schooners. Thus far during 1868 there have been lost 114 vessels, valued at $6,852,500, as compared with 174 vessels, valced at $8,652,500 during the corresponding period of 1867.

MARINE LOSSES ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.—Losses and connection with vessels navigating the river St. Lawrence were more numerous in 1867 than in any previous year. The following statement shows the approximate loss in connection with accidents occurring on the river between Kingston and Quebec. Accidents to 4 steamers $14,347; to 2 propellers $27,220; to 1 tug $742; to 1 schooner, $8,400; to 7 barges $71,030. Total loss, $121,780.—*Annual Review of the Commerce of Montreal.*

Railway News.

NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Traffic receipts for week ending 18th April, 1868.

Passengers	$2,160 12
Freight and live stock	8,927 78
Mails and sundries	215 70
Total	$11,303 60
Corresponding week, 1867	11,943 65
Decrease	$640 05

DETROIT AND MILWAUKEE RAILWAY.—The following were the gross earnings for the weeks mentioned:—

	1867.	1868.
January, 4th week	$18,330	$21,855
February, 1st week	22,487	20,518
July, 2nd week	24,623	19,718
March, 1st week	24,623	19,718
	$90,063	$81,789

NORTHERN RAILWAY.—In the correspondence between the Minister of Finance and the Managing Director of this railway respecting its indebtedness to the Government, the reason the payment to Government on the second preference bonds of £50,000 stg., have not been met, is explained. The capital account of the railway is closed. During the last three years the growth of traffic overpowered its equipment of rolling stock. In order to provide for the wants of the traffic, the private bondholders consented to a temporary suspension of dividend, and granted a loan of £5,000 sterling. The works have now been completed. The half-yearly dividend of three per cent. to Government amounts to $7,300. Five dividends are in arrear, with a small balance on the sixth in the whole amounting to $38,176. The loan and arrears to private bondholders amount to $65,782. Mr. Cumberland proposed to pay the Government as follows:—On 1st March, 1868, $8,976, and thereafter on 1st August and 1st February, a current dividend of $7,300, and an arrear's dividend of $7,300. The Minister of Finance accepted this proposition on the understanding that hereafter the holders of bonds ranking concurrently with the Government, shall not be paid their interest while that of the Government is left in arrear. Mr. Cumberland considers that the Company will be able to meet its payments with punctuality.