and this in spite of the fact that the Dominion Coal Company has paid a larger sum in dividends at least up to 1908 than any mining company in Canada. This feeling is most intense against our gold mines and except among the better informed it is a permanent bar to business. The chief cause of this prejudice are the operations of unscrupulous promoters who cajole their friends into stock schemes in which by various methods known in high finance the money invested gets no further than the promoters pockets. The blame as usual is put on the Nova Scotia mines and miners.

A Boston real estate man firmly believes that a Cambridge friend of his lost 1½ millions of dollars in a Nova Scotia mine. A liberal estimate of all work and plant at this mine both above and below ground at prevailing prices shows that it could not cost $200,000 even if no gold were ever obtained. Therefore it is no wonder that the most ridiculous yarns are believed when a man of fair intelligence will give vent to such fairy tales.

Many of these investors, who buy sheets of gilded and decorated certificate from their American friends would consider it a sign of recklessness if they should put up a small mill for a half interest to help out some struggling miner who owns a small but rich vein. They dearly love to be in with the successful man forgetting that as a rule he is successful because of the money he gets from his friends.

The bias in favor of low grade ore, big mines, big mills, big capitalization, and high salaried foreign managers who are ignorant of local conditions in Nova Scotia should die out in time and give our small rich veins a chance as in the days of yore. As more than one authority has said, this is the land of the small capitalist. Nearly all our high grade mines have paid their cost, some of them several times over, when the owners knew when to stop, for the life of no mine is infinite. This should show investors which way the road to success lies.

To the small investor I would say, help the man who you see is helping himself, even though he goes under while doing so. There is no better guarantee of good faith than a struggle against overpowering odds. And if the man of dollars is built on the selfish lines necessary to make him a brilliant financier, let him help the man who is down, for with him he can drive a better bargain than with the manwho is so elated by success that he will neither bow to force nor listen to reason or flattery.

Finally I would say that if nearly a lifetime of experience in the gold mines of Nova Scotia is of benefit to prospectors or intending investors, I am at their service.