

## MINING—Continued.

lodes of Baryta found on lands of which leases have been secured by the gentlemen interested in the discovery, who purpose commencing operations shortly. We have every confidence in the success of the enterprise, as Mr. Greener, who has charge of affairs, is a thoroughly practical engineer of long and successful experience both in England and the Dominion. We trust that Messrs. Greener, Ingham and Forbes, may be fortunate in either working the mine or in having it worked by a company. Messrs. Greener and Ingram have also discovered two valuable leads of copper ore on lands for which they have secured government leases. Mr. Greener is also interested in a coal claim in the northern part of Cape Breton, this area contains two seams of excellent coal and is situated within a mile of a good harbor. *North Sydney Herald.*

A number of Boston capitalists, represented by a Mr. Sargent, who has been in the village of Albert for the last few weeks, have purchased the Steadman property in Crooked Creek, and cleared out the beds. We understand that gold, silver, and tin have been found and that the prospects are quite good. It is said they intend putting in a steam crusher, at a cost of \$25,000. We trust they may "strike it rich" and that this may lead to further enterprises of the same kind. The prospect at present seems brighter for the development, in a partial manner at least, of our vast mineral resources which we believe require only enterprise and capital to render profitable investments.—*Observer, Harrey, N. B.*

Parties arrived from Victoria in December from Granite Creek, had been to Eagle Creek and Mine's Gulch, and report considerable excitement on account of the new strike, and that a large number of miners had proceeded to Eagle Creek and taken up claims.

It is stated that the result of operations at the west end of Silver Mountain exceeds the most sanguine expectations, and that another rich outcropping has been discovered about one hundred feet to the west of No. 2 tunnel.

The Bank of England by law is obliged to purchase all gold bullion offered to it of standard fineness at 77 shillings and 9 pence per ounce, which bullion it can have coined at the mints at the rate of 77 shillings and 10½ pence per ounce.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA.**—The discoverer of Granite Creek has discovered another creek which he calls the *Eagle*, and states that he thinks it will prove a much richer creek than *Granite*. Samples from rich quartz ledges have been sent down for assay.

**THUNDER BAY DISTRICT.**—It is reported that a mill for the reduction of silver ores will be erected at an early date at the *Rabbit Mountain* mine. There are now five working mines in the district.

A mill test, by Balbach & Sons, Newark, N. J., of 2,785 pounds of pure ore from the east end of Silver Mountain, gave 1,039½ ounces of silver, which is highly satisfactory to the owners.

**COAL IN CHILI.**—The only sources from which fuel can be obtained in all South America are, it is said, the coal mines that lie at the extreme southern limit of the populated district of Chili. Taicahuano is the nearest port of importance; but the towns at the mines are Lota and Coronel. The mines are entered by shafts that are immediately over the water of Lota Bay, so that the coal is drawn on trucks to the mouth of the mines, and dumped into launches and lighters, which are towed out to the anchorage of ships. It is said that it costs \$1.35 a ton to mine and deliver this coal on ship-board, and that the owner, Donna Isadora Cousino, of Santiago, who is said to be the Cæsar of South America, will not sell at less than \$7.50 a ton, just a shade less than the cost of imported Cardiff coal.

The success of the meetings held during the week by Capt. Gragg, in the interests of the Coxheath Copper and Smelting Co., shows that our capitalists and business men are fully alive to the importance of this great enterprise. Capt. Gragg is evidently a practical man, and is fully conversant with each detail of his great undertaking. He pointed out the special advantages offered by Sydney for fluxing copper ores, for not only was copper itself found in large deposits in the locality, but the cheapness of fuel placed the success of the new enterprise beyond the pale of mere probabilities. Capt. Gragg's explanations were listened to with interest by those present, and it is thought probable that a much larger sum than the \$50,000 which he required could be raised in Halifax without difficulty. We congratulate Capt. Gragg upon the favor with which his proposals were received, and we hope before another year rolls round the copper smelting works on Sydney Harbor may be in operation.

The new metal, gallium, melts at 81.1 degrees Fahrenheit, becoming liquid when held in the hand. Its specific gravity is a little less than six, or about half that of lead. It tarnishes but slightly in the air. It adheres readily to glass when fused, forming a beautiful mirror. In chemical characteristics the rare element gallium most resembles the abundant element aluminium.

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