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The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.

Visitors from the mining districts as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Through an unfortunate and unforeseen accident the printing of the January issue of the REVIEW was so delayed as to entail the publication of a double number absolutely necessary. The present issue has therefore been increased to sixteen pages.

The Development of the Mines of the Ottawa Region.

(By James Stewart, Ottawa.)

Written for the Canadian Mining Review.

The mineral district of which Ottawa is the centre is a large one, including the western part of Quebec Province and the eastern part of the Province of Ontario, and it is to this section especially that reference is made, although the following remarks apply to the whole of the provinces mentioned, the one under Grit, and the other under Tory rule, and as regards the best interests of the miner, prospector or explorer, the saying, "good and bad everywhere," may be put "bad and worse," applies equally to them both.

The development of the mines has an important connection, with the most complete knowledge of the minerals of scientific interest only; and for this reason, and that of the injustice done to one section of the population, by those in power, is the apology offered for these remarks, which may appear to some to have too much of a technical bearing.

About two years ago, when some of these notes were made, there appeared in the news-

papers of almost all parts of Canada articles and correspondence under sundry headings, showing clearly that there is something materially wrong with the mining interest of these provinces as at present situated, that is, an individual ownership instead of Government holding the minerals for rental, or on lease.

Some writers attribute the lack of mineral development and stagnation of the whole industry (coal mining excepted) to the absence of a Bureau of Mining Statistics, or a neglect on the part of the Geological Survey of Canada in not publishing reports of the extent of mining done each year. In making this discovery they at once saddle the Geological Survey with the total neglect of the mining interests, and find relief in considering it the "Scape Goat" in this case, and none tried to arrive at a clear understanding of the position in which the mining interests of the provinces stand at the present time. Had statistics been collected by the Survey they would tend to make more glaring the error in our laws as regards mining lands; the number and acreage of our mining land monopolies, and show more clearly the error our Provincial Legislators have fallen into in selling the minerals with the surface soil to the farmers; it is desired to point this out as the true cause of the lack of mineral development in this district and suggest a remedy.

Others gave the cause as depending on a foreign market for our ores, and extravagance and bad management, with an ill advised expenditure on the surface, of too much money before the mine was developed in depth, and some to untrue and glowing promises, of "millions of tons of ore in sight" on the part of promoters of a new enterprise. There is no doubt, in some cases, these causes have helped to close the enterprise and deter others from embarking in a similar mine or property.

In Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and British Columbia, the Crown or Provincial Government owns the minerals, and issue licences to parties desiring to open and work mines, and in these Provinces, is the business of mining largely and most successfully carried on. While in Quebec and Ontario the minerals are at present sold along with the soil, and in doing so, the birth right and portion of the explorer, prospector, or miner, is given to the farmer, or still worse to the speculator in mining lands, and these sons of toil, have to beg for terms from the miserly farmer, or independent and extortionate land owner or speculator. Mining lands have been sold in this way, during the last 40 or 50 years in Quebec and Ontario; some few it is true are being worked, but the great majority of the most valuable mining lands and mines are in the hands of speculators, or parties who will not work them, and ask for the mines and properties an exorbitant price should an intending purchaser approach them.

This state of affairs, or the act of the Local Legislators selling the minerals, instead of giving a lease or licence, compelling the owner to work

the mine or quarry or it would revert to the Government, or by exacting a low rent or royalty under such a licence or licence, from the profits derived from working the mine, is the cause of so many valuable properties being locked up, as it were, and development retarded, and the mining industry does not receive the attention it would, if these mining lands remained in the hands of the Government. In proof of this may be mentioned the vast amount of mineral land held by companies and speculators in the Lake district, also in Eastern Ontario, and amounting in many cases to thousands of acres in a block, thereby binding the settlement of the country. In Eastern Ontario, alone the amount thus held amounts to many millions of acres of the best mineral lands. The same is true also as regards the Phosphate region in Quebec. It is this system of unconditional sale of mining lands for speculation, without regard to yearly working, that has ruined the mining interests of this district. The error of anyone party owning a large extent of mining land in a block, arises from the fact, which is well known to experienced miners and explorers, that minerals do not occur by chance (but this subject is too large to be considered at present), that is, certain rocks hold certain minerals, and by selling, say to an Iron Mining Company, a few thousand acres in a block, they got other minerals, which they cannot treat or the use of which they may not know, and the ores other than iron remain unworked.

Compare the system adopted in the Western United States, where a mining claim is given to the discoverer on condition that it is worked, or labor spent on it to the extent of \$100 each year, or it will revert to the Government. Under that system the right of discovery of the explorer, prospector, or miner, is respected; and a reward granted him: (he can locate two claims), but in Ontario and Quebec, he has no rights, and he is, therefore, drawn to the more inviting fields of the United States. The location of the claim in the States is made by the discoverer on the ground, and placed on record in the Land office, but in this district it is made by a clerk in the Land Office, and not by the discoverer, a practice which has proved fruitful of the worst abuses and frauds on Canadian discovery. In the United States, in granting mining claims in that way, ore accumulated through the compulsory clause to work it, at least so much each and every year, and from its accumulation arose the necessity for milling or smelting works to work it up; and had the same inducements and compulsion been in force in Canada, our mines would have been counted by the thousand, instead of the few now in operation.

The chief ores of this region are: iron, (hematites and magnetic), phosphate, or apatite, and a large variety of pyrites, or sulphuret ores of the miners, holding in places copper, gold and silver in workable quantities, lead or galena, plumbago (black-lead), mica, and others of less importance. The ores of iron are found in such variety and