

1888—SPRING—1888.

We are now receiving and passing into Stock our purchases for the approaching season.

Staple Department.
CLOSE PRICES—RELIABLE MAKES.

Dress Goods and Mantle Department.
Newest Fabrics—Increased Assortment.

Hosiery and Glove Department.
Immense Variety—Solid Value.

Millinery Department.
Our preparations in this Department are on a more extended scale than usual, and worthy the attention of all dealers in this class of Goods.

SMITH BROS.,
Wholesale Dry Goods and Millinery,
Granville and Duke Sts., Halifax, N. S.

COALS.**FOR ONE MONTH**

We will sell the undermentioned Coals
at the following

LOW PRICES.

Sydney Coal at \$5.75 per Chaldron.

Victoria Coal at \$5.25 “

S. CUNARD & CO.

NORTH END DEPOT, O'NEIL'S WHARF.

SOUTH END DEPOT, DOMINION WHARF.

MINING.

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD-MINERS' ASSOCIATION.—The adjourned meeting of the above Association will be held at the Halifax Hotel at 2.30 p.m. to-morrow. We hope that there will be a large attendance of mining men and that the Association may be permanently organized by the election of energetic representative officers. There is good work to be accomplished by the Association, and the delay in organizing will doubtless prove advantageous in the long run.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MINES OFFICE.—For some months past the Mines Office has been in a state of most delightful confusion. Masons, carpenters and painters have had possession, and in a remarkably short space of time have wrought a needed transformation. The old flags in the corridor leading to the offices have been removed and replaced with marble. The end of the corridor has been separated by a neat partition, and made into a large office for the Deputy Commissioner and Inspector. The Commissioner's room has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted, and the Hon. Mr. Church, when he so wills it, may now be “alone in his glory.” The most important changes have been made in the outer office, where Mr. Carman and his clerks smiling receive the cash which a too confiding public are so anxious to deposit solely for the benefit of the Provincial exchequer. Their philanthropy is never mixed with sordid motives, as they seek only the golden opportunity.

An old cellar way has been abolished, and the space thus secured added to the room, and a commodious fire-proof vault erected. This was an absolute necessity, and the valuable papers on file in the department are now safe from destruction by fire. The mines is really the most important department of the Local Government, and we are glad to see that its hard-worked officials have at last been provided with suitable quarters.

We are happy to note that the royalties obtained from both coal and gold have exceeded the estimates. This fact speaks volumes for the prosperity of both industries.

The iron industry in this Province is looking up, and we are in receipt of frequent requests for information about iron properties. Parties having such properties to dispose of would do well to communicate with THE CRITIC office.

Mr. John McGuire, of Duluth, now operating the gold mine at Brookfield, Queen's County, who is also interested in the Malaga Lake District, has been astonishing our local members by displaying before them rich samples taken from the Malaga Lake property, owned by him in conjunction with Messrs. Nelson, Wade and others.

Our local capitalists seem to be taking an interest in our gold fields, as the Davidsons, the great lumbermen of Bridgewater, and other capitalists representing over \$1,000,000 capital, are reported to be interested in this property. This is as it should be, and proves that our moneyed men are beginning to appreciate the fact that a good gold mine in Nova Scotia is one of the best investments the Province affords. The fact that our local capitalists have not invested in our gold mines, has been quoted by outsiders as proof of want of faith in their value evinced by our own people. Mr. McGuire is a most competent manager and a thorough business man, and deserves the thanks of the mining community in rousing our local capitalists to a sense of the value of our gold fields.

We learn from an English mining journal that the combined capital of the companies operating in the Transvaal amounts to no less than £12,000,000 stg. In the face of this fact the total amount of gold exported from Cape Ports and Natal during 1887—£253,933—looks ridiculously small, and proves that the returns on the capital invested are very meagre. The truth is that most of the returns are from a few rich mines, the number of which could be counted on the fingers of both hands. The balance of the 109 or more companies are little better than swindles, and we are almost appalled at the amount of suffering that must ensue in England when the bottom falls out of these worthless concerns, carrying, as it must, ruin to thousands of now happy homes.

Nova Scotia is at present fortunately free from stock-jobbing companies, and it should be the effort of all gold miners who have the interest of the country at heart to keep it so. Capital could be well invested in gold mines in different parts of the Province, and with this end in view every effort should be made to divert English capital this way. We may have no bonanzas to offer, but money judiciously invested in our gold mines is almost certain of yielding a large profit.

Continuing our extracts from the statistical report on the mineral production of the Dominion of Canada during 1886, we find that the Zenith zinc mine on the north shore of Lake Superior was not worked in 1886. In 1885 zinc to the value of \$83,349 was imported, in 1886, \$196,678.

TIN.—“Tin has not yet been discovered in Canada.” In 1885 the imports of block, pig and box tin reached a value of \$163,876, in 1886, \$294,185, a very great increase. In 1885 the imports of tin plate and sheets amounted to \$687,563—in 1886, \$802,355.

MERCURY.—“Cinnabar was discovered in 1886 in the Rocky Mountains, near Golden City. It has been found in several other places in British Columbia, but not yet in workable quantity.” The value of the imports in 1885 was \$6,209, in 1886, \$8,792.

PETROLEUM.—“The total quantity of crude petroleum produced in Canada in 1886 has not been obtained, as it has been impossible to get the