

This extract is worthy of the Secretary of the Free Coal League at his best. The reference to the "tube 60 feet long, with breakers" rather puzzles us. We gather that someone has been amusing himself at the Senator's expense. Perhaps, however, the reference is to the Robins belt-conveyor at Louisburg Pier which is used to load slack coal into vessels. This conveyor is about 600 feet long, and is used to take coal from the slack pocket to the hatch, and has a loading capacity of 700 tons per hour.

The facts of the case are these: The Dominion Coal Company has a contract with the New England Gas Company to supply slack coal for use in the coke ovens at Everett. This coal is all slack that is taken from under the screens in the ordinary process of screening, and it is only because of the fact that it is slack coal that the Dominion Coal Company has not sent a pound of round coal to the New England States since the spring of 1906, nor are they likely to.

Senator Elkins gives some figures to show the great importance of the coal industry of the United States, which we quote and take them as correct, for it is but reasonable to suppose that his figures with regard to the United States will be accurate, notwithstanding the fairy tale about Nova Scotia with which the Senate was amused. In 1908—a dull year—the coal production was 419,000,000 tons, worth \$500,000,000 at the mouth of the mine. If the money involved in transportation be added the sum involved in this great industry is \$800,000,000, and three million people depend upon it directly for a living. Then the Senator speaks of the production of Nova Scotia as being 5,800,000 tons per annum, and states in another part of his speech that with her present development Nova Scotia cannot supply much more coal than she now does. After this statement the Senator gets off the following doleful prophecy: "There are Americans and Canadians waiting to see if coal is put on the free list to buy coal lands in Canada, and if they should, and open new mines, they will ultimately take the New England market, I think, except for the very best quality of coal, and in a few years take all the New England market. The result of this would be so disastrous, so ruinous, and demoralizing to West Virginia, Maryland, and Eastern Pennsylvania, that these states can never consent to the lowering of duty on coal." Truly the United States must be in a parlous condition. The entire Canadian coal production to-day is ten million tons per annum, or expressed as a fraction it is one forty-one-millionth of that of the United States, and if reciprocity in coal should have occurred the result to the States will we are told be 'disastrous, ruinous and demoralizing!' How very consistent!

If Canadian coal lands appreciate in value and contents as we have known them to do when bought by certain American citizens we do not wonder that Canadian competition looms so large in the eyes of the Senators. The prospectus of the Great Northern Coal Company read as follows, in part: "The property owned by this company is very valuable. It consists of three square miles in the heart of Cumberland County, which is famous as the largest coal district in Nova Scotia. Each square mile contains about 37,000,000 tons of coal, or in all about one hundred and eleven million tons (111,000,000 tons). Figuring this coal at 11 cents per ton, which is the value given coal in the ground, gives this property a cash value of \$12,200,000. Twelve million two hundred thousand dollars. Think of it! This means that every share of stock has nearly \$500 back of it. It means that the Company will be mining coal when our grandchildren are married one hundred or two hundred years from now." This is the description of a certain Nova Scotian coal property by a gentleman who advertises as Henry N. Roach, 373 Fifth Avenue, New York, and who publishes a weekly newspaper known as "Roach's Financial Facts." A description of the same property by a Nova Scotian mining engineer says "in my opinion it would require a very large outlay to put this mine

in condition for a daily output of 300 tons, and such a development would not be warranted by the present holdings." This same mine produced in 1908 the large output of 2,726 tons, of which amount the former owners raised 1,287 tons.

Comparisons are odious, but we feel bound to remark that a great deal of the information which is disseminated in the United States with reference to Canada is, shall we say, "roachy" in character.

QUEBEC.

Mr. J. E. Hardman, S.B., of Montreal, was in Thetford recently, looking over some Asbestos ground for a client.

The Montreal fiscal agents of the Compton Gold Dredging Co., having failed to make good on their agreement to provide funds for a dredge, by May 1, Kennedy & House, of Beebe, are now calling for the return of their property, as other parties are ready to take it up and put on a dredge this season.

It is reported that the Eustis people are about to re-open the nickel property at Brampton Lake.

The asbestos Merger, and the sale of a few properties has had the usual effect, namely, farmers having a show of serpentine, or hornblende, expect to get anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for a few acres, while one with any real asbestos goes up out of sight. And there will be the usual result. It is one of the unfortunate things about mining—people will lose their heads, eventually be disappointed and blame anything and everything for their own folly. We have yet to see what the ultimate result of the merger with its \$25,000,000 capitalization will be.

Meanwhile, prices are on the aeroplane. The writer had an option on 100 acres last season for \$1,500, and allowed it to expire. Now the owner has leased it for \$10,000 and gets \$100 per month during life of the option. Truly, there's a time to catch bears.

The Eastern Canada Smelter Co., which has an option on Mr. J. McDonald's copper property in Weedon, is sinking a new shaft. Some handsome ore from the property can be seen in the Company's office, Sun Life Building.

A meeting of the Directors of the Eastern Canada Mines Company was held recently and properties offered the Company discussed, and several declined. Plans were made for taking over of some promising claims, and the business of the Company put on a satisfactory basis.

The Company has a deal in prospect on one of its holdings, Le Chat Noir, a large placer.

Mr. Geo. Lewis, M.E., and Mr. C. A. Parsons arrived in Sherbrooke, June 15, and with Mr. Kenneth E. Kennedy drove to the property near Little Lake, recently purchased from Mr. Parsons by New York people. Mr. Lewis is here for the purpose of advising on the best means of working the placer ground, and also of examining the quartz veins on the property.

ONTARIO.

Cobalt.—On June 4 a general meeting of the shareholders of the Temiscaming & Hudson Bay Mine was held to discuss a place for the recapitalization of the company. It is proposed to form a new company having a capital of from \$3,500,000 to \$5,000,000, the shares being of a par value of \$1.00. The issued stock of the present company is only 7,761 shares of a par value of \$1.00 each, but the true value of each share is so great that the stockholders have a commodity that, while of