

on the Woodbine property. The *Cobourg Co.* are erecting a building for their pumping and hoisting engine; and Mr. Harrington is very judiciously confining his operations to the large and promising lead (the Cartwright) which is worked on the Wentworth property. The *Meridian* mill is now in good running order, and is crushing trial quartz from the *Delta* and *Crescent Cos.* properties. Two large belts of leads have been laid bare on the *Meridian* areas, giving promise of remunerative workings. This is one of the best of the new companies. The *Kingston* and *Sherbrooke Co.*, under Mr. Kirkpatrick's management, are sinking on the "Big Cumming" and "Little Cumming" leads of the Wellington property, immediately adjoining. They have two shaft-houses on their property. The *Delta* and *Crescent* works are being pushed forward vigorously, and two shaft-houses have been put up by the first named company, and three by the last. Mr. Barnes shows some very good lead. Mr. Carnie reports very favorably of the prospects of the *Stanley Co.* It seems, however, strange that the *Blue Lead* and *International* properties, chiefly owned by Montreal capitalists, are not worked, when it is known that some of the best of the Wellington leads pass through them. On the whole, there is a quiet business-like appearance at the mines, suggestive of the gradual but sure development of a highly remunerative manufacturing business.

ISAAC'S HARBOR.—Mr. Balcan has brought up 149 ozs. 13 dwts. as the past month's product of the *Mulgrave Co.* Mr. Buckley, owner of property at Dunn Cove, writes to say that he made steadily a dollar and a quarter per day at alluvial mining, during September and October. The *Belleville Dousterwivel*, after making further dupes, has left for parts unknown.

UNIAKE.—The returns from this district are very gratifying. We have received only one report from the *Eureka-Uniacke Co.*, but too late to embody in present issue. The report is very satisfactory, and the progress of the work does much credit to the Manager, Mr. James M. Higgins.—*Mining Gazette.*

THE MINING BILL

On the 11th this Bill came up for discussion in the Legislature of Ontario. With reference to the fifth clause the Commissioner said that his intention was that the reservation of gold and silver should be given up in all lands hereafter patented, but as regards agricultural lands it might not be done in all cases, as some lands sought ostensibly for agricultural purposes might really be sought for mining purposes.

Clause 9, with respect to the form and size of locations, having been moved, Mr. Cumberland said it would assist the miner to subdivide the locations into half sections of 100 acres, or quarter sections of 80 acres each.

Mr. Sinclair thought miners should be allowed to take 40 acres instead of being compelled to take 320 acres.

Mr. Blake was of the same opinion.

Hon. Mr. Richards considered that 320 acres was the quantity most likely to be taken. The difficulty was that in the unsurveyed territory it was feared that the division into such small lots would lead to confusion. However, he would retain 320 acres as the size of the location, and allow practical miners to take 80 acres.

Mr. McKellar preferred 40 acres. He objected to charging the locatee with the cost of a survey. On the other side of the lake small sections are allotted and no charge made for survey.

Hon. Mr. Richards had departed from his former policy because he had found that the miners' wealth of the country was not so great as he had supposed it was. Some time ago our imaginations were fired by the fabulous accounts of the immense riches found in the Richardson mine; but what was the fact? That mine had not paid the costs of the lawsuit with reference to it.

Honorable gentlemen talked of our immense mineral wealth. He would like them to shew where it was. He then alluded to the question of surveying the mining territory, and said that honorable members, when they asked the Government to undertake the duty of surveying it, did not know what they were talking about. The proposition was to survey a tract of country extending from Sault St. Marie to a point beyond Thunder Bay, some 500 miles in length. A single line run from Sault St. Marie to Thunder Bay, at a distance of about 18 miles from the coast, had cost the Government from \$40 to \$70 a mile, and he did not suppose surveys could now be made at a cheaper rate. The Government contemplated making a survey in the vicinity of Thunder Bay, where it was supposed there was some mineral wealth, but to talk of confining the explorations of the miner to that locality, was downright nonsense. The Government could not undertake to survey every spot. Now what better system could they adopt than had been adopted in other countries, under circumstances similar to their own? In the Western States people went on unsurveyed lands in the mineral regions, and occupied them under miners' claims, the same as he had provided for in this Bill. And after all it was the cheapest way for the practical miner, and the best way for him to succeed. If they compelled the practical miner to go and have a survey performed, it would be an expensive proceeding to him. This plan of the mere possessory right had been acted upon with advantage in the unsurveyed territories of other countries, and it should be acted upon here, that is, practical miners should have the right to take possession of a piece of land, without having an absolute title, which involved the difficulty of an expensive survey. It was with this view that the Government had framed the Bill in the way they did. But it was supposed that capitalists also would engage in ventures of this kind, and, if they wanted a lot of land for mining purposes, the Government did not think that 320 acres would be too much. He still thought that was a small enough quantity for one location; but, if such was the wish of the House, the Government would not object to reducing it to 80 acres. In the unsurveyed territory, however, he believed this would have very little practical effect.

Hon. Mr. McMurich asked if the hon. gentleman had any plan for preventing capitalists from absorbing large quantities of territory.

Hon. Mr. Richards said he had not. A former Government introduced a policy, under which no one individual could take up more than one lot of 400 acres. This was evaded by an individual taking up other lots in the name of his friends. Not long since a party called at the Crown Lands Department, who, he ascertained, had thus acquired a title to eight lots.

Mr. Blake agreed that frauds of this kind could not be prevented by statutory enactments, and it was idle to cumber the statute book with provisions which were sure to be evaded.

Mr. Blake said in order to defend their change of base, hon. gentlemen on the Treasury Benches come forward with one of the most damaging statements as to the poverty of their mineral lands which he had ever yet heard. The Commissioner of Crown Lands comes forward and says that though he claims the right to impose a royalty, these lands are so poor that it would not be right to burden them with even one per cent. It would have been far better for that hon. gentleman to have taken the more straightforward course of admitting that the policy of a royalty was erroneous, however rich the mines might turn out to be.

Mr. McKellar said no mines had been worked since that Act passed.

Hon. Mr. Richards—Two mines have been worked—the Montreal mine and Mr. Withers' mine.

Mr. McKellar said Mr. Withers' mine had not been worked. The machinery was brought to

Ontanogon, and lay there, because the company felt that they could not erect the machinery while such a law remained on the statute book.

Hon. Mr. Richards said the company had been informed—he believed in June—that no royalty would be exacted, except on silver mines. He was informed that the machinery was not forwarded, because it was believed the mine would not pay the expenses of it.

Mr. McKellar believed it was at a later date than June that the company were informed that the royalty would not be exacted. At all events, the law had had the effect of preventing explorers from going into that section of country. He had been told by one gentleman that he had \$70,000 from parties in England to invest in mining, but he would not invest it on account of that law. There could be no question that it did the mining interests an immense deal of injury. Mr. McKellar then alluded to the question of surveys, and urged that the lines of survey should be closer together than was proposed, so that a miner, on taking up a location, should not have to run a line of nine miles to reach a base. He believed surveys could be made by the best surveyors in the country, at half the cost of the line alluded to by the Commissioner; the surveyors, when that line was run, being paid by the day, which experience did not show to be a cheap method of surveying.

The blank in clause 11 for the price of mining locations was filled with \$1 per acre. The Commissioner consented to the amendment of clause 12, so that all timber on the land essential to the working of the mine might be cut and used by the patentee.

Mr. Cumberland called attention to the fact that nothing in the measure restricted the monopoly of land. Something like a penalty tax for non-development of the territory ought to be imposed. Already in this district there was a general tax of two cents per acre—a tax which was regarded with great satisfaction by the people of Algoma. He suggested whether it would not be well to deter the sluggard, speculator and monopolist from taking up these lands, and that it would be well to provide that, if three or five years after the issue of the patent, the land remained unworked, that then, by force of the Act, a tax of say three or five cents per acre should be levied on these lands, so unworked.

Hon. Mr. Richards said it might be better to try the effect of the present tax of two cents per acre a little longer, and if it did not work, another session a change might be made.

On clause 16 Mr. Blake suggested that it would be time enough to call on the explorer to get out his license when he had got his claim, staked it out, and came to get it registered and take out a license.

Mr. Swinarton did not think any Montreal miner would object to paying \$5 for a miner's license at the outset. That was the system in British Columbia, and had worked well and been esteemed liberal.

The blanks in this clause and the next were filled up with \$5—making that sum the fee for a mining license.

Mr. Grahame (York) moved an amendment to the twenty-first clause, to provide that a miner, having struck a lode or vein in his mining claim, should have the right to follow the inclination of the vein downwards, even should it go outside the boundaries of the claim at the surface.

Mr. Blake and Mr. Swinarton supported the amendment, adducing the testimony of practical miners, to show that, from the general inclination of veins, such a provision was necessary to give the miners the full value of any vein he might be working.

Hon. Mr. Richards said he would allow the clause to stand, with a view to considering how it could be amended in the sense suggested.

The twenty-second clause, referring to the forfeiture of claims, was also allowed to stand.

The twenty-fifth clause provided that the dis-