

The author, Mr. Brenton Symons, C. E., F. G. S., is well known here, having inspected a number of our gold mines, and we note with pleasure the high opinion he has formed of the gold bearing districts of the Province:

At a meeting of the Mining Association and Institute of Cornwall, held at Camborne, the Secretary (Mr. W. Thomas) read a paper by Mr. Brenton Symons, C. E., F. G. S., on "The Gold Fields of Nova Scotia." Captain Josiah Thomas presided. The paper said that the gold-bearing strata of that Province bore some analogy to those of the Black Hills and so-called "Saddle Reefs" of Victoria. When the gold discoveries in California and Australia were causing excitement, search was made in Nova Scotia for the precious metal, but it was not until 1863 that it was obtained in paying quantities. From that time to the present the yield has gone on increasing, until it now stands at 25,000 ounces a year. The alluvial gold was of three ages; the first a deposit resting on the Cambrian rocks; the second was concealed under the Post-Pliocene deposits; and the third consisted of auriferous alluvium which was even now in process of formation by the action of the sea. The gold-bearing district was about 3,500 square miles in area, but the area of the valuable mining district was much smaller. It was the custom of the Nova Scotian miners to abandon their mines when they had "bottomed the pay shoot." This had given rise to the opinion that the ground decreased in value in depth, but they had reason to believe that such was not the case. The gold ores were found only in the Cambrian formation, chiefly in the middle portion of the lower quartzite division. No quantity of gold is found in the slate alone, but in some mines where the slate becomes quartzose as it approaches the quartz there is a considerable amount of the metal. The gold occurred in nuggets, large leaf, like flakes, and small veins or strings in the quartz, but "leads" with much fine gold were rare. The Government made a large revenue under the mining laws of the colony by means of royalties. A prospector could take up any number of areas, each 150 feet long and 250 feet across, at 2s. 1d. each up to ten areas, after which he must pay half that amount. This gave him a title renewable for another six months on the payment of half fees. At the end of the year he must take out a lease for 21 years, which costs 8s. 4d. an area. When his claim becomes gold-producing, he paid a two per cent. royalty on the returns. An area was equal to an acre. On account of the indifference of the speculators, prospecting in Nova Scotia was principally done by the mining population assisted by the storekeepers. Very few claims were systematically worked, the necessity of making immediate returns compelling the adventurers to take the surface gold, and the mining district was thus covered with trenches and pits, and this when the mines were sunk deeper led to their being flooded. Few of the mines were deeper than 300 feet, and after they were stopped the tributaries, who usually paid the owners 10 per cent., stepped in and further damaged them. The gold fields of Nova Scotia, although not amongst the most important in the world, were very interesting from a geological point of view, and offered remunerative employment to a large number of people. There was still a considerable extent of gold bearing ground unprospected, and provided a promising field for native speculators. Although the total amount of gold produced was relatively insignificant, the quantity of metal obtained in proportion to the number of men employed exceeded the produce of every other country. The value was 10s. per man, against a labor cost of 5s. per man—Mr. Symons was, on the motion of Mr. Vincent, seconded by Mr. J. Wickett, thanked for his interesting paper.

Georgetown, December 20—"Exports of gold are steadily increasing—from Dec. 3rd to Dec. 17th, 2,514 oz. 14 wt. 13 grs., valued at \$45,203.25, making a total to date this year of 28,051 oz. 1 wt. 20 grs., valued at \$520,471.60. Exports to same date last year 13,927 oz. 5 dwts., 8 grs., valued at \$255,282.27."

SALMON RIVER—The Dufferin Mining Company are getting their celebrated mine in good shape, the leads are widening out, and new stopping ground opened up, which will give a large future ore supply. The new management will doubtless soon bring the mine up to its old standard as a gold producer.

From latest accounts all efforts to extinguish the fire in the Vale Colliery, near New Glasgow, have proved unavailing, and the management have decided to shut down the mine indefinitely, closing all air drafts in order to extinguish the fire if possible. This is a great calamity, as some four hundred men will be thrown out of employment.

ITEMS CONDENSED FROM THE GOLD HUNTER.—A fine mill has been constructed by Mr. Newcomb at the Grand Central Mine, Pleasant River, Lunenburg County.

Reports indicate that the Minneapolis Company of Moega has a fine mine, and it is deeply to be regretted that operations have been suspended, pending an evident attempt to apply the "freezing out" process to one of the owners.

R. R. McLeod is doing some prospecting at Waterloo, Lunenburg County. The formation is entirely slate, and a fine belt of leads, well mineralized, is running through it showing some gold.

The Parker Douglas Mill will soon have ten more stamps at work.

Mining men are expecting a boom in Queens County in the spring.

Mr. John Harlow has returned to the Caledonia Mine, and will doubtless soon have the mill in operation there.

At the mill and mine of the Moega Mining Co. matters seem prosperous and the outlook encouraging.

It is believed by those who are in a position to know that Westfield "Jumbo" will be started up in the spring.

The Graves Mine, at Whiteburn, presents an active appearance, and has passed through its hardest times.

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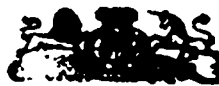
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The Tenders must state the rate of premium offered. The Debentures will bear interest from JANUARY 1st, 1890, and the purchaser will be required to pay the accrued interest to the date of delivery.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 20.

If Debentures are not ready for delivery, purchasers will receive Scrip Certificates, which will afterwards be exchanged. The Government do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

W. S. FIELDING,
Provincial Secretary.
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 31, 1889.

NOTICE.

ROBT. STANFORD,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

156 HOLLIS STREET,

Is offering bargains in HEAVY OVERCOATINGS of which he has a large stock, consisting of BLACK, BLUE, BROWN and GRAY WAPS, GENUINE IRISH FRIEZES, in several different shades, FOXES, HONESPUNS, Etc.

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