



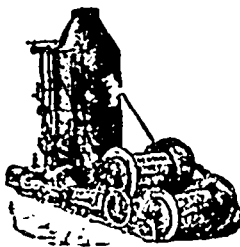
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MINING.

To the Editor of the Critic: DEAR SIR,—I noticed a letter in the *Canadian Mining and Mechanical Review* for December, 1891, headed "Nova Scotia Gold Fields," by G. F. Monckton, Esq. There is one point in the article in question which I should like to make some remarks on, if it will not encroach too much on your space. Mr. Monckton says, in the course of his remarks:—"These tributors will comprise a few working miners, a storekeeper who pays his calls in provisions and supplies at a modest three hundred per cent profit, and perhaps a small capitalist who pays in £10 or £20." Now, in the course of a thirty years' experience as a storekeeper in different mining camps, I have never heard of anyone charging three hundred per cent profit on his goods. It is possible that Mr. Monckton meant thirty per cent, and by some typographical error it expanded into three hundred per cent. Even if that were the case, I consider that he has been guilty of a tremendous exaggeration. We mining storekeepers have to charge high prices on our goods, that I freely admit; but as a rule, we are doing business in some out of the way place, and we depend entirely upon the honesty of the workmen to pay us when they get their month's wages. As a rule it pays us better to keep clear of tribute and prospecting companies, even if we paid the men a trifle to deal somewhere else. If the men do happen to strike anything good they usually behave like men, and pay up any back bills they may have on our books; but should they have bad luck, and get nothing, it is apt to go very hard with the merchant. It takes a man on day's wages a long time to recoup himself for two or three months lost time, and if he has a family to provide for it will take him a year to clear himself. I was sorry to notice this error in Mr. Monckton's otherwise accurate and well-written article. It is calculated to give the British public a very bad opinion of the class to which I belong. Believe me, yours truly,
STOREKEEPER.

OLDHAM GOLD DISTRICT.—Several New England capitalists, under the name of the "Rhode Island Mining Company," have purchased a gold mining property at Oldham, N. S., from T. B. and Henry Donaldson, of Enfield, and intend commencing operations thereon next week. A good figure was paid for the property and it has all appearances of being very valuable, being on the range and quite near the celebrated "McDonald" mine now owned by J. E. Hardman, et al. The new company consists of C. R. Day, of Millville, Mass., President and Treasurer, and three other capitalists of Providence, Rhode Island. Norman Logan, of Milford, N. S., is manager in this Province and also a shareholder. Mr. Day is interested in a Banking firm of Providence, R. I., conducts a large ice business in Boston and has a general store at Millville. He paid two hurried visits to this Province and inspected the property before purchasing. The company was organized through Mr. D. Logan, of Woonsocket, R. I., of the firm of Logan & Sproull, Manufacturers. Mr. Logan is a native of Elmsdale, N. S., but has been in business in the States for the last ten years. The company intend fully developing the property and will spare no expense in this direction.

MOLEGA ITEMS.—We are pleased to state the famous Rabbit Lead, on the Malaga Co's mine, is turning out as usual. Long may it run.

Mr. F. K. Ballou, Manager Boston Co's mine, is spending the holidays with his family in Boston. This company has several air drills working in their mine, which are giving entire satisfaction.

Mr. Chas. McLeod, who has been on the sick list for several weeks, is improving. We are pleased to say he is meeting with the usual results on the Fiske Block.

Mr. C. McClair and others are still working on their tribute.

NORTH BROOKFIELD.—The Brookfield mine is running so smoothly and quietly that we hardly know it is going. Men all steady; no disorder anywhere. About ten car loads of quartz are being crushed per day. Mr. Kenty seems to be one of the few who thoroughly understands managing a gold mine, and the result will no doubt be satisfactory to all concerned.

The West Mine at Whiteburn resumed operations on Monday. Tributors on the Whiteburn Mining Co.'s property resumed operations, we learn, on Wednesday last.

BRIDGEWATER ITEMS.—Manager Partington, of the Whiteburn mines, deposited a 25-ounce brick of gold with the Merchants Bank last week.

F. W. Ballou, of the Boston Gold Mining Co., Molega, deposited a good sized brick of gold with the Halifax Banking Co. last week.

Last Thursday Manager Wade, of the Molega Mines, deposited a 173 ounce brick of gold with the Merchants Bank.—*Gold Hunter.*

The discovery of a valuable deposit of paint is reported from the north-west Miramichi, about 20 miles from Newcastle. It is 96 per cent. pure oxide of iron, and Mr. Brunnell, of the Dominion geological survey, who recently examined these deposits, says there is nothing like them known to scientists. The paint is of the consistency of putty and is ready for use immediately on being taken from the ground. It is fire proof and 2 pounds will give the required body to a gallon of oil. Mixed in water it makes a durable wash, four or five pounds giving a strong finish color to a barrel of whitening. Gold and silver bearing quartz have also recently been discovered in the Miramichi. Several miles of areas have been taken up and two companies are interested, the Johnson-Robertson syndicate of Montreal, and the Ferguson-Coleman syndicate. Hon. M. Adams, M. P., and F. R. Coleman, recently appointed the house of Commons caterer at Ottawa, being