

RAILWAY, COLLIERY, MILL AND GOLD MINERS' SUPPLIES.

AUSTEN BROS.

Have now in Stock the largest and best assorted stock of
RUBBER BELTING
in the Maritime Provinces.

This belting was made specially for our trade, of the best 32 ounce Cotton Duck and Para Rubber—FULLY WARRANTED in every respect. SUPERIOR TO ANY OTHER RUBBER BELTING IN THE MARKET.

CYLINDER AND MACHINE OILS

COPPERINE. — A nonfibrous, Anti-friction Box Metal, for machinery bearings. Shape of bar, name and package secured by letters Patent.

Wastes, Packings, Hose, Emery Wheels, Wrot Iron Pipe and Fittings, Pumps, Shovels, Steel, Water Wheels, Wire Rope, etc., etc.

WRITE FOR PRICES.

AUSTEN BROS.,
HOLLIS STREET.

MACDONALD & CO.

(LIMITED)

HALIFAX, N. S.

Manufacturers of and Dealers in

PUMPING MACHINERY

FOR MINERS' USE,

IRON PIPES AND FITTINGS, &c.

LEITH HOUSE.

Established 1818.

KELLEY & GLASSEY,

SUCCESSORS TO ALEX. MCLEOD & Co.

Wine and Spirit Merchants,

HALIFAX, N. S.

Truro Foundry and Machine Co.

TRURO, N. S.

ENGINEERS AND FOUNDERS.

Our Specialties are—

GOLD MINING MACHINERY

Of every kind, with latest Western Improvements.

ROTARY SAW MILLS

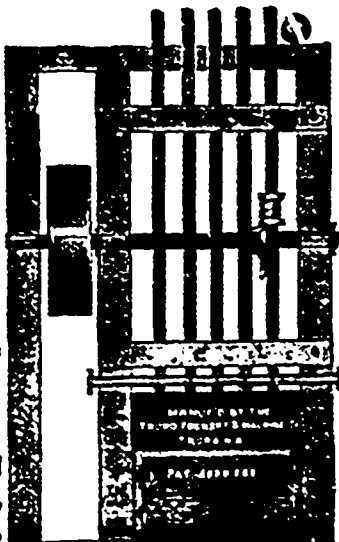
In Latest Styles, and

HOT WATER BOILERS.

Estimates furnished for Heating Dwellings Stores, Churches, &c., with Hot Water or Steam.

—ALSO—

Manufacturers of Boilers and Engines, Iron Bridges, Stoves, Ship, Mill and General Castings.



MINING.

THE MINES DEPARTMENT.—Of late years there has been a notable improvement in the management of the Mines Office, and now every attention is paid to the wants of mining investors. The railing off of the outer office thus preventing public access to the valuable documents on file was a much needed improvement, and gives Mr. Carman and his assistant plenty of elbow room. The Hon. Mr. Church, Commissioner of Works and Mines, has now an office to himself and business callers find him most accessible, and affable and painstaking in all his dealings. In the new office, formed by enclosing the end of the corridor, Mr Gilpin, the Deputy Commissioner and Inspector of Mines, and Mr. Browne the accountant, have their quarters. Of the former official little need be said, as he is acknowledged on all sides to be the "right man in the right place." A mining engineer of acknowledged high ability, and a member of a number of leading scientific associations, his able articles on the mines and minerals of Nova Scotia have been of incalculable benefit to the Province, and the Government are to be congratulated on securing his services. Mr. Browne is equally proficient in his duties and is indefatigable in his efforts to keep the work of the department up to time. He has the bump of order largely developed and has systematized his work to such an extent that vexatious delays or mistakes are no longer possible. In fact an air of business pervades the department that was sadly lacking a few years ago.

The mining outlook must certainly be considered bright now that the ladies have begun to speculate in mining areas. We were present in the Mines Office not long since when two of Nova Scotia's fair daughters—are they not all fair—were making applications. The obliging junior clerk was evidently at his wits end to find out exactly the numbers of areas that were wanted. It is said that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom but the reverse was the case in this instance. The none too legible plan of the mining district proved more confusing than a Chinese Puzzle to the fair ones. One thought the claims they wished to cover were on the north side of the stream, the other on the south, and both wanted the clerk to point out the bridge which was their starting point. As this was beyond his power they finally concluded to go it blind, and trusting to the luck that seems one of the perquisites of the fair sex they picked out 40 areas on a venture and plunked down the cash. That they have struck a bonanza is our heartfelt wish, not a nuggety lead, but a second Salmon River with good pay quartz throughout the vein.

ARDOISE HILL.—We have had no information from this district for some weeks, will our correspondents post us up?

MOOSE RIVER.—Mr. D. Touquoy in this district is proving that with intelligent management our gold mines are the best of paying investments. Ever since Mr. Touquoy opened up his mine he has made regular returns at the Mines Office, and has proved that his property is very valuable.

We hope that mining men in all parts of the province will bear in mind that THE CRITIC is anxious to receive the latest authentic mining news, and send to us letters or postals conveying the news of their respective camps. Our object is to advance the mining interests of Nova Scotia, and the best way to do this is to lay before the public only facts. Highly colored reports of mines or mining prospects in the end only do harm, as if mining engineers are induced to inspect such properties and find that the facts have been mis-stated they are likely to become suspicious and to form the opinion that owners have been trying to "boom" worthless properties. We should like to have a postal card each week from all the mining camps of the province, giving in a condensed form the yield and prospects. If we could succeed in doing this it would fill our mining columns with just the information the public need.

An important petition to Nova Scotia mines is now in circulation among the managers of the iron working establishments of the New England States. This petition is addressed to both houses of Congress and asks that iron ore, coal and coke be put upon the free list, and that the duty on pig iron and scrap iron be reduced to the figure which prevailed immediately before the civil war, or 24 per cent, ad valorem. The importance of this movement lies not less in the requests involved in it than in the state of facts which it discloses. It is not a movement started by the opponents of the present government of the United States, but by their friends and supporters, and its object is not so much an increase in the gains of the New England iron workers as it is their self preservation. It is understood that the trouble which necessitated the circulating of these petitions is entirely local, and caused by the action of Pennsylvania monopolists who now dictate the tariff, which is framed to the injury of the New England States.

THE PROSPECTORS LIFE A HARD ONE.—The life of a prospector is a hard one, writes a correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle, and to follow it a man must have patience and perseverance to endure many hardships. He is generally on the move, going from one camp to another, adopting any vacant cabin he may be fortunate enough to find, or hurriedly constructing his temporary dwelling places of the simplest kind from material most convenient. One end of a cabin is almost always monopolized by a huge mud fireplace and chimney. On the side is a door, and opposite a window, the latter generally consisting of a square hole provided with a wooden slide. A swell prospector sometimes has a half-window, with some of the panes actually unbroken. The possessor of such a luxury generally moves it about with him, and adapts it to various structures. In one corner of the