

thousands (the actual outlay made in procuring the gold) to produce enough to pay the whole expenditure. As has been done in other parts of the Province as well as here, instead of putting their capital underground for the purpose of production, and then making a surface outlay commensurate with that production; they begin by spending large amounts in unproductive outlay, so that the capitalist becomes discouraged at the prospect and refuses to go further in the matter. Why, there are properties in this Province where \$50,000 or \$60,000 have been spent in erecting mills, etc., and perhaps \$10,000 or \$15,000 in mining. The result can be easily estimated, viz:—abandonment and loss, whereas, had the expenditure been reversed, they would be working to-day and paying fair dividends in the bargain.

(To be Continued.)

KILLAG.—We are glad to record the sale of the Killag Mining Companies property at Killag. The price paid has not been definitely ascertained but we understand that it is in the vicinity of \$50,000. The purchasers are a syndicate of Boston and Philadelphia capitalists, and they are, it is needless to add, well pleased at securing such a valuable mine. The sale is worthy of more than a passing notice as Killag has a most interesting history, and although we have in previous issues referred to the property, the present seems a fitting opportunity to again draw attention to the skill and perseverance with which it has been prospected; the success finally rewarding the owners, being valuable evidence that plenty of back bone in gold mining is a necessary qualification. But the facts speak for themselves, and the best way to illustrate what has been achieved is to give a condensed sketch of the work done at Killag since the first discovery of gold.

It is now some twenty two years since Mr. Leopold Barkner, a gentleman who had been operating quite extensively in the gold mines of the Province, encouraged by the rich drift found at Killag, commenced operations there. After spending large sums of money and much time in prospecting, and after having portaged six miles through the woods the machinery for a crusher, he with many regrets had to abandon the district without discovering the lead. After Mr. Barkner's departure spasmodic efforts were made by various parties at different times to follow the rich drift up to its source, but without success.

About ten years ago a company of eight, chiefly Halifax men, sent out two prospectors who worked for three years in the vicinity of the property and found very rich drift, but their efforts to discover the lead proved fruitless and the company, after spending some \$2,000 in prospecting, finally discontinued work, but retained possession of the leases.

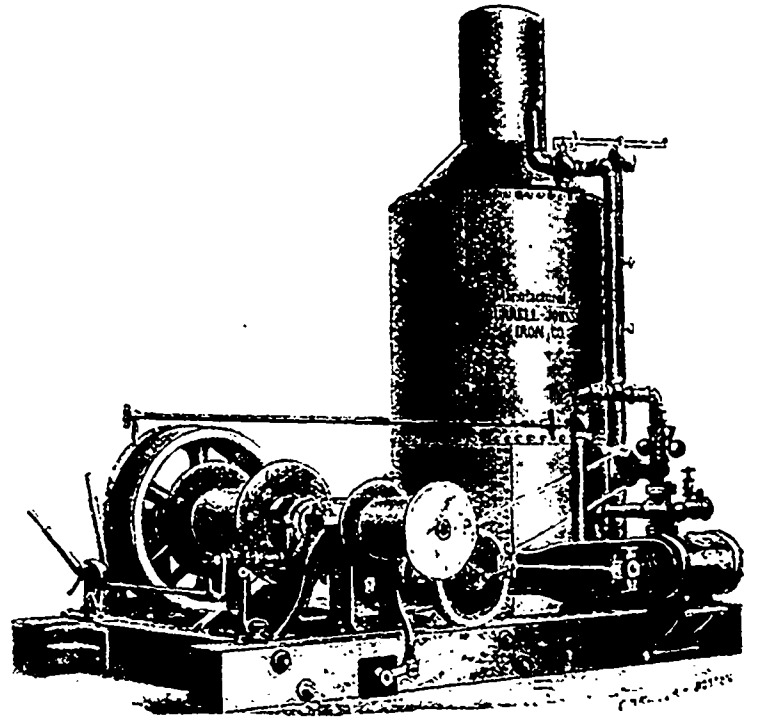
George W. Stuart, so well known in connection with the discovery of the Rose Lead at Montague, a discovery by the way which put new life into gold mining in Nova Scotia, appeared on the scene some six years ago, and secured the property from the owners of the leases for it is understood about \$8,000.

He went to work with characteristic energy, and from early spring until the frosts drove him out of the woods year after year continued his operations. The first four years all supplies and tools required in his mining operations had to be carried or portaged in over a rough road. Then, fully convinced of the eventual success of his efforts, he interviewed the Government, who very considerably gave him a special grant of \$750 to go towards building a road into the mine. This was no small undertaking, as three good bridges, one over the main West River of Sweet Harbor, and two over the Killag River, were required; but, supplementing the Government grant with his own cash, Mr. Stuart soon completed a good road into the mine at a cost that was astonishingly low. He was now able to transport machinery into the district, and immediately set about sinking a shaft in the centre of a large swamp, where he had determined a rich lead was to be found. The work of sinking this shaft through the great depth of surface to the bed rock, impeded by water and quicksands, was very difficult, and necessitated the construction of coffer-dams or caissons. By their protection the bed rock was finally reached at a depth of 25 ft., and the shaft sunk down in the rock for 25 feet. From the bottom of the shaft a cross cut north through the rock was driven and sixty feet to the north of the coffer-dam shaft the long-looked-for lead was finally discovered. A substantial steam plant, consisting of hoisting gear, pump, &c., was erected on the lead, two shafts were sunk to a depth of 20 feet, 60 feet apart, and connected by a drift. Forty tons of quartz (still uncrushed) were obtained from these operations, variously estimated by practical men to be good for from 2½ to 5 ozs. gold per ton, the lead proving 10 inches in thickness. Three years ago John H. Anderson, the discoverer of the Lake Catcha District, where are located the Oxford Mine and other valuable gold properties, joined Mr. Stuart in the undertaking, purchasing a quarter interest, and has since cordially co-operated in the search for the lead.

One of the eight parties previously referred to was Mr. W. A. Harris, of Windsor Junction, who had faith in the property, but still more faith in Mr. Stuart's ability to eventually make the district a success. He has tenaciously held on to his eighth interest, and is now rewarded by a corresponding share in the profits. The other owners are understood to be J. M. Pitblado and Daniel Hattie, well-known Nova Scotians, now residing in California, who each own 5/16ths, leaving Mr. Stuart a half owner in the property. We take pleasure in recording the success of Mr. Stuart's efforts at Killag, as pessimists have been loud in their assertions that he would never find the lead. In the face of obstacles that to nine men out of ten would have proved insurmountable, he has steadily persevered, and his success is an assurance that gold mining in Nova Scotia, when pursued with good judgment and vigor, is bound to yield substantial returns. It should encourage others to aid in prospecting and developing our rich gold districts, and if it accomplishes this, Mr. Stuart in pocketing a liberal reward will also have the pleasure of knowing that he has materially aided in advancing the mining interests of his native Province.

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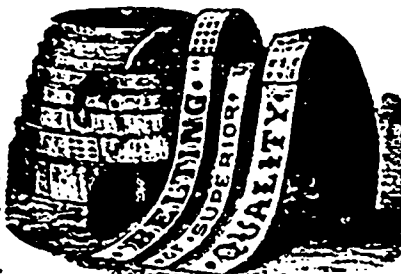
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