

The Canadian Mining Review

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The CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, is devoted to the opening up of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, and its publishers will be thankful for any encouragement they may receive at the hands of those who are interested in its speedy development.

Visitors from the mining districts, as well as others interested in Canadian Mineral Lands, are cordially invited to call at our office.

Mining news and reports of new discoveries of mineral deposits are solicited.

All matter for publication in the REVIEW should be received at the office not later than the 17th of the month.

Address all correspondence, &c., to the Publishers of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, Ottawa.

Advertising Space.

The circulation of the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW, which has steadily been going up since its first publication, more than five years ago, has now more than doubled the estimate upon which we had reckoned, and its value as an advertising medium to business men who wish to reach the best classes of mine owners and operators, and the mining centres and camps of every province in the Dominion, is consequently very greatly enhanced. The REVIEW is in the widest sense a Canadian journal belonging to all provinces alike; it is the only journal published in Canada wholly devoted to the interests of her mining industries and mineral resources. We would simply draw the attention of those who have hitherto overlooked it, to this matter, promising our best attention and most reasonable terms on any application for advertising space.

The Nanaimo Disaster.

The announcement and details of the terrible colliery catastrophe at Nanaimo has naturally created throughout the length and breadth of our Dominion a feeling of deep sympathy for the large number of unfortunate families who have thus so suddenly been bereaved. Out of a total of over one hundred white men and nearly seventy-five Chinese, only six have been brought out alive and these are more or less injured. In Victoria and other portions of the Pacific province a fund for the relief of the sufferers has been organized, and we feel sure that our readers in the sister provinces will also come forward and augment it with liberal contributions. Great suffering exists and practical assistance is wanted in the worst way.

Until the result of the enquiry, which has been instituted by the Hon. Mr. Robson, Minister of Mines, has been made known, the cause of the fatal explosion can only be con-

jectured, firedamp, coal dust, insufficient ventilation, carelessness on the part of the unfortunate miners, ineffective machinery and the like, are causes that have been hinted at. In the meantime a searching investigation should be made with a view to adopting preventive measures for the future.

Protection to the Mining Industry.

This can be accomplished in more ways than that which is generally understood to be the most desirable means or by an increased duty on importation to enable our minerals to be mined and smelted in our own country for our own use. That is one only of the measures, and we have no intention of under estimating its value, hence it is mentioned first as being the most important and that most easily adjusted to the requirement of all concerned. At the present time our metallic ores are mined with the object of supplying foreign markets, and little, comparatively, is utilized for local use, which is the more desirable method to pursue in order to receive the full benefit incidental to smelting and manufacturing them into the metallic state. The minerals requiring revision under tariff regulations are coal, iron, copper, lead, zinc, sulphur, and clays.

The other demands for protection are from evils that exist under, and that are incidental to, a wrong system of selling minerals along with the surface soil or agricultural right to Farmers and Speculators, and without regard to Citizenship. In doing so our Local Governments have sold an area of some millions of acres of our best mining lands, and these have passed into the hands of foreigners and non-residents, and no condition or provision is made by the Government so selling them, that these minerals will be developed and worked. But such is not the case with Dominion land homesteads, for provisions as to citizenship, location on the ground by possession, and development, are made compulsory. Are not mining lands worthy of the same protection as Dominion farming lands? Protection is required from an evil in the form of fraudulent schemes started and promoted by parties who are not mining men, but having a local knowledge of a district they may become associated with mining men and thereby gain a mere smattering of the business. Often they are American importations, and at times a combination of local and imported talent, who present a prospectus of a mining company with glowing accounts of "millions of tons of ore in sight that require nothing in outlay to market" "it but the mere blasting of it out of a mountain side!" or words similar to that and with that meaning. On such an untrue picture funds are secured and work and time prove, for it is reported by one of the company, that instead of costing only the actual expenses of mining the ore, it has actually cost \$20,000 to open one of the mines! The large mountains of ore do not roll into the railway cars as plentifully nor as fast as was promised, no

dividends are paid from mining the mountains of ore, or if any are, they are not from profits. Another dying or last attempt is made of still greater things a little further off which requires possibly railway extension and only a few millions of dollars, and such are the means used to bring ruin on what might be a workable scheme if conducted on business principles and with a regard to the true condition of affairs presented.

They may even not scruple at advertising to own a property they have only a half interest in! By such dishonest means some \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 of capital is sought to be invested in a manner we call neither legitimate business, honestly represented or a correct way of doing it.

The periodical, and now in Canada, historical mining excitement, is another form of fraud from which no good can result when the conditions for such, or anything to excite about, are wanting. If a large deposit, say of pyrites of low grade, or even several large deposits, are found several hundred miles from market or civilization, and in a country devastated by fire, there is certainly nothing to warrant a mining fever in that, as the conditions for successful treatment of such an ore are not found in the neighbourhood; it has therefore to be shipped to a market where it will mix with other ores and be treated so as to utilize the by products. Such a find or prospect is not a poor man's mine. To develop it is therefore interesting only to a manufacturer who can treat such an ore, and there is no money in it for the poor prospector as it cannot be worked on a small scale as easily as on a large one, and its value even to the manufacturer is a question of properties, freights and value, hence the folly of a mining excitement over such a discovery. It cost only \$500,000 to prove the truth of this in the Province of Quebec with similar ore and better conditions. Hence the ore is only a shipping ore and subject to competition in freight with other ores of a similar kind, which can be obtained nearer a market. We cannot see any reason why such an ore should cause a mining excitement. It is quite different where gold is discovered in alluvial diggings. There is nothing in it to warrant an excitement save only in the fertile brain of a schemer who desires to "sell" somebody in selling claims. It is only a question of freights, quality and price, like any other trade commodity dependent on supply and demand. Thus we have referred to protection by tariff revision; protection to mining lands against foreign or alien owners; protection against the locking up of mining lands; protection against fraudulent prospectuses of "Wild Cat" schemes and schemers; protection against false pretences and fraud; protection to capital from the employment of those who are ignorant or not trained to mining as a business, and the list not being yet exhausted will be continued in our next issue.