

MINING NOTES.

A movement is on foot to create a coal miners' union in the United States. Of workers in bituminous there are 170,000.

The anthracite production in the United States last year was 29,500,000 tons, the largest on record by 1,000,000 tons.

Analagous to carrying coals to Newcastle might be said to be the carrying of nails to Dudley. Yet the United States, which only a few years ago imported all the nails used, last year shipped them to England, Ireland and Scotland. The British possessions in Africa took 581,987 lbs. Canadian axes and American hammers now compete successfully in England, simply owing to the fact that the native manufacturers are paying less and less attention to quality.

M. L. B. Dumas, member of the French Academy of Sciences, has discovered that water saturated with alum, has superior value in extinguishing fires—a value supposed to be due to the coating it gives to objects wet with it, which prevents contact with the oxygen of the air, and thus diminishes the rapidity of the combustion. Experiments are to be made by supplying the firemen of Paris with instruments to throw it, and the Minister of the Interior has recommended that the firemen of the French communes or towns be supplied with facilities to use such solutions of alum. *Le Monde de la Science*.

The Keewatin company are working vigorously on Hay Island. The walls are perfect, and it will be possible to dispense with timbering the shaft. The pay-streak is widening almost with mathematical regularity, and the superintendent reports himself perfectly satisfied with the progress made. The class of rock being hard trap without fissures a dry shaft below the lake level is assured. The Vice President of this company is at present in New York attending to its interests and those of the Lake Winnipeg company. He expects before his return to make arrangements to bring in a mill in the spring.

The Superintendent of the George Heenan Company came into town last week for instructions before locating the shaft. It has been decided to dispense with the costly work of stripping the lead, and to sink a shaft ten or twelve feet back from the drift in which the original owners had been quarrying. The water being very low in the Lake of the Woods a few shots will be put in below where the quarrying took place, so as to ascertain the patch of the vein, and then the angle of the main shaft will be determined upon, so that the veins may either be intersected or reached by a short cross-cut below the lake level.

The *American Mail* says: "The finest gold ever assayed at the United States Assay Office, New York, was recently received from the mines of the Canada Consolidated Gold Mining Company, of Ontario. Of two bars aggregating nearly 2,000, one was 992 fine, and the other of about 31,200, was 998 fine. One small bar even ran 999. The gold was produced by chlorination from the gold-bearing arsenical sulphurets treated by this company. The assays show

that from 90 to 97 per cent. of the gold is obtained by this method." This company work the Gatling mine, which the lack of Canadian enterprise throw into the hands of Americans, in the same manner as the original owners lost Silver Islet.

The *Journal of Charcoal Ironworkers* gives interesting figures in regard to the by-products obtained in making charcoal from a cord of wood. From average wood weighing 3,600 pounds per cord, wood spirit will be obtained to the extent of 2.25 cwt. to 3.20 cwt. The number of heat-units obtainable from the by-products of a cord of wood are in round numbers 2,764,000, or 1-10th of what is contained in a ton of anthracite. Fuel in this form, it is said, will do three times the work of that in a solid condition, and, in conclusion, it is stated that if the by-products from a cord of wood were consumed in a properly constructed furnace the useful effect would be equal to 3-10th of a ton of anthracite.

The stringency of the money market during the past week probably had something to do with the absence of any demand for mining shares, the quotations for which at the Bourse remain: Keewatin \$7.25; Winnipeg Consolidated \$25; Lake Winnipeg \$4.50. The great anxiety of a few investors to realize is causing more annoyance than can well be imagined. If men purchase mining shares at a heavy discount they should be prepared to wait a few weeks or months to obtain an advance on the prices paid. At this stage of mining shares are sold at what they are supposed to be worth, the basis of calculation being the amount of work done and the amount of "pay" in sight, and pennywise speculators as are hawking their few shares round the city are a curse to mining, and the companies might well consider the advisability of instructing their brokers to bring them all in.

Mr. D. K. Brown, of the Bourse, has received assurances from prominent capitalists in the United States that they will visit the mining belt when the snow disappears, with a view to lending a hand towards development. The aid of English capitalists is also being invoked, and there is reasonable hope of all the money necessary being forth coming. Owners of claims will, however, have to be more modest in their demands, or they will find that capitalists will employ prospectors of their own, so as to secure locations at a reasonable price. Men, who last June would have hailed the advent of a man with a thousand dollars as a deliverer from the bondage of poverty now unblushingly ask fifty times the amount they then were willing to accept. Something much like a system of blackmail is also being attempted when claims are purchased. No sooner is a location purchased from the person in whose name registration of survey has been made at Ottawa and Toronto, than some pliant lawyer is employed to issue a notice of trespass on behalf of some one who has at one time or another attempted to jump the claim. As there is no court in the disputed territory competent to issue an injunction, a little shot gun litigation may take place, if the would be blackmailers attempt to take possession. There is, besides, a criminal court, and the would be blackmailers may find themselves com-

pelled to defend their alleged titles in a way they do not expect. It is as well to understand and at the outset of this business that purchasers of claims will not be safe unless they deal directly with the original locator, leaving him to deal with grub-stakers and those who may have acquired an interest in the location claim.

The severe weather of the past three weeks has to some extent interfered with work at the mines in the Keewatin district. Work, in the shafts has, however, been vigorously prosecuted. In the Winnipeg Consolidated, location F 22, the shaft is now down sixty feet, and the pay streak has widened to fully two feet, the quartz taken therefrom being thoroughly decomposed and showing free wiry gold of a very fine color. This ore will be very easily milled, and is of the best class of free milling. The company has about concluded the purchase of a pulverizer mill, and should nothing interfere will produce the first brick in about a month's time, when the charter will have passed the Council, which is at present busy over the approaching meeting of Parliament. Supt. Brown, during his visit to the city last week, said that his most sanguine expectations had been more than exceeded. The work of sinking on location F 22, is also progressing favorable, and the quality of the ore continues to improve. Though F 22 is now considerably below the level of the lake, the shaft continues free from water. The company is now working three eight hour shifts, and will increase the force of men when a hundred foot level is reached.

Commercial Travelers.

The *Shipping List* says:—"The system of selling merchandise by traveling salesmen in this country is mainly the outgrowth of the last twenty-five years and very few who are not immediately concerned have any adequate idea of the enormous proportions to which the business has attained. According to statistics presented before the Wholesale Druggists' Convention, lately held at Cleveland, the number of salesmen who sell goods by sample throughout the States and Territories is roundly stated to be not less than 200,000, maintained at an average cost to their employers, in the shape of salary; traveling expenses, hotel bills etc., of \$3,000 for each salesman, or an aggregate of \$600,000,000 per annum. The system was undoubtedly modeled after the system of English 'bagmen,' who traveled throughout the United Kingdom and sold goods for the merchants of the chief commercial capitals long before traveling salesmen in this country were thought of. Though scarcely more than a quarter of a century old, the commercial traveler system has kept pace with the increasing facilities of travel furnished by our great railroad system. As the railroads have brought a market to every farmer's and producer's door, so have they brought to every country merchant's door the enterprising commercial traveler with his different wares. Commercial travelers have wonderfully promoted trade between remote sections, and in many ways have been of great benefit, both to their employers and to the merchants who purchase their wares. They have been instrumental in gaining wider markets for