



CONDUCTED BY . . . . . B. T. A. HELL.

OFFICES:

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## THE OFFICIAL ORGAN

—OF—

THE GOLD MINERS' ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA,  
THE UNITED MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA,  
THE ASBESTOS CLUB, QUEBEC,  
THE GENERAL MINING ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC.

THE following Resolutions of Council indicate by point  
a peradventure the status of THE REVIEW as the  
exponent of the Canadian Mineral Industries:—

The Gold Miners' Association of Nova Scotia.

"At the annual meeting of the Gold Miners' Association of Nova Scotia, held at Halifax on 6th March, 1889, THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW was adopted the official organ of the Association.  
(Signed), B. C. WILSON, President,  
G. J. PARTINGTON, Secretary.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia.

"Moved by Mr. R. G. Leckie, seconded by Mr. C. A. Dimock, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Mr. B. T. A. Hell for his kind offer placing the columns of THE REVIEW at the disposal of the Society; and that THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW is hereby appointed the official organ of the Society."  
(Signed), H. S. POOLE, President,  
H. M. WALDE, Secretary.

The Asbestos Club, (Quebec.)

"Resolved: That THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW be, by authority of the Members and Council, hereby appointed the official organ of the Asbestos Club."  
(Signed), D. A. BROWN, President,  
A. M. EVANS, Secretary.

The General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec.

At a meeting of Council held at Montreal on Friday, 6th May, 1891, it was moved by Captain Adams, seconded by Mr. R. T. Hopper, and resolved: That THE CANADIAN MINING REVIEW be the official organ of the Association.  
(Signed), GEORGE IRVINE, President,  
B. T. A. HELL, Secretary.

### The late Mr. W. H. Irwin.

It is our painful duty to record this month the death of Mr. W. H. Irwin, which occurred at his residence in Montreal, on Sunday, October 1st. The deceased gentleman was a partner in the well-known firm of Irwin, Hopper & Co., dealers in asbestos, and at the time of his death was a director of the Anglo-Canadian Asbestos Co. (Limited), the Montreal and Kootenay Mining Company (Limited), and the English Portland Cement Company (Limited). To the mining men of the Province of Quebec, he will be long remembered for the prominent position he took in all that affected the welfare of the industry, and particularly for the energy and zeal he displayed in promoting the abolition of Mr. Mercier's onerous mining law, the tax on powder magazines, and other legislative measures. He was one of the first to advocate and further the formation of the General Mining Association of Quebec, and by his untimely death the members of that body mourn the loss of a wise counsellor and firm friend. He took an active part in the proceedings of the International Mining Convention at Montreal in February last, being foremost in promoting and carrying out the arrangements for that meeting and

in entertaining the visitors. Indeed, we are informed that his death is direct, traceable to this event, for a cold contracted on the toboggan slides with a party of guests developed into an attack of pleurisy from which he never recovered.

The deceased gentleman, who was only 38 years of age, married about twelve years ago a daughter of the late Mr. Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Ontario, by whom, with one daughter, he is survived. The REVIEW joins with every member of the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec, and the mining men of the country, in tendering to Mrs. Irwin an expression of sincere sympathy in her sore bereavement.



The late Mr. W. H. Irwin.

### Bimetallism — Rothwell's International Monetary Clearing House a Chimera.

The fundamental condition underlying any attempt to create a double standard of value, is the possibility of maintaining an exactly equal value for given quantities of two separate metals, that is, that an ounce of gold shall always be equivalent to a certain number of ounces of silver in the denominations by which money is known; in such a way that whoever has a payment to make or a debt to receive, it shall be a matter of absolute indifference whether he gives and receives this in gold or silver (or in paper certificates of either, or paper promises to pay either).

It need not be stated that the actual unit of value in every country is a certain definite weight of metal. It is important that this should be clearly understood, and that this has come to be so through the varying influences operating for many centuries in the region of commerce and banking; for the all dominating reason that while the value of anything is a fluctuating and uncertain quantity affected by many influences constantly working in millions of minds and finally resulting in what is called "supply and

demand," the weight of any commodity that can be handled is a fixed and determinate thing. Not all the influences in the world put together can make an ounce of silver more than an ounce, or a pound of copper more than a pound. There are fixed standards of weight in every country, by whatever names these weights may be known. These are capable of being made so definite as to be absolutely unalterable. Similarly with anything that is estimated by its bulk, any commodities that can be measured are susceptible of definition that is absolutely unalterable. An inch, a foot, a yard, are certain properties of matter which are determined by unvarying and invariable standards, and no conceivable circumstances can make any change in them. No law of supply and demand has the slightest effect upon the length of a piece of cloth, or the weight of a bar of iron, or of an ingot of gold or silver. When, therefore, contracts are made to buy or sell so many tons of iron or so many yards of cloth, the quantity can be exactly estimated inasmuch as their denominations must conform to fixed standards in possession of the government of the country. Weight on the one hand, length, breadth or thickness on the other are properties inherent in material bodies, and nothing can alter them.

Now, these weights and measures, so far as the denominations are concerned, are purely arbitrary as between one country and another; yet, within the same country they must perforce be precisely the same. Every country has somewhere a legal standard of length, and a legal standard of weight, and these are purely matters of legislation. The legislature of any country, if it so pleased, could make its standard of a foot to be six inches longer, it could make an inch equivalent to two inches, it could make a yard as long as a yard and a half. But then this standard would require to be universally adopted and understood throughout the country, or the woe of its exchanging or trading operations would be thrown into confusion, and it would require to make known its standard to other nations of the world, or its trade with them would be thrown into disorder. In practice, such things as attempting to alter measures or weights and make them longer or shorter, heavier or lighter, is unknown, for no possible object would be attained by it to anybody.

But when we enter upon the region of value, we are in a world of ideas of an altogether different kind for value is not inherent in anything whatever. Value is in the mind of man—it is a purely mental conception—it does not inhere or form a part of the substance of the thing itself. A bar of iron can be measured, and its length, breadth and thickness are unalterable—it can be weighed, and its weight is unalterable. A bar of silver can be subjected to the same process, so can a nugget of gold. But the value of that bar of iron is a mental conception, and that mental conception is subject to a thousand changeable influences. It may be one thing in one man's mind and another thing in another's—in fact, this changeable conception and the difference