

which the blanks far outnumber the prizes and in which, moreover, there are no more certainties than are to be found in what some call those objectionable institutions. The fact, however, is that mining is as much a legitimate business as any other occupation, that there are those persons who have educated themselves for it, who have studied the earth's formation and with such success that not only can they tell us where ore lies, but before they have uncovered it can, by assaying, with tolerable accuracy, inform us as to the proportions which the gold or silver bears to the accompanying elements.

"Science has discovered the best and most economical methods of extracting the precious metals, and hence the business has proved profitable. Mining properties are no longer mere engravings upon paper, but have a tangible existence in localities which their real presence has transformed from otherwise barren wastes to productive regions. It is true that mining was long under clouds, but now that they have been lifted and heaven's own sunlight has gleamed upon them, the prospects and products of our American mines glisten with a radiance that proclaims their genuine character, their wealth and their stability."

In fact to this day mining has not been very favorable in Beauce, on account of the circumstances, but now that all obstacles have been removed, a vast career is open to energy and good use of capital, and the Chaudière mining region is called to an important destiny ; and if the valley of lake Saint-Jean be named soon the granary of Canada, the valley of Beauce shall become its treasury.