'RARE MINERALS" IN CANADA. (Specially contributed.)

It is reported o' good authority that the Maisonneuve Mica Mine in the Township of Maisonneuve, county of Berthier, has been sold to Paris capitalists, and that operations have commenced on that property with a view to search for, and mine the rarer minerals containing amongst others, as established by previous thorough investigations, the new mineral radium. This property is situated about 40 miles from St. Emily Station, on the C. P. R., and has been worked in former years for white mica, which is said to be of excellent quality. This mir eral occurs in a remarkable powerful vein

frequently appearing to penetrate each other with straight radiating clavage faces for a considerable length. The white muscovite mica occurs in this vein partly in isolated crystals distributed irregularly over the whole width, and partly in accumulations near the contact with the adjacent formation. Most of the crystals obtained from the mine deliver fine sheets cutting from 2×3 up to 3×7 inches and some crystals in situ measured 18 inches square. This pegmatite vein is distinguished by the occurrence of foreign minerals Tourmaline, beryl and garnets and the rare mineral Samarskite or uranotantalite occur somewhat abundantly in the excavation made in the vein. An analysis of Samarskite found on this property,



VIEW SHOWING A SECTION OF THE ASBESTOS AND ASBESTIC COMPANY'S QUARRIES. (See page 126.)

of pegmatite near a creek, varies from 30 to 50 feet in thickness, and is abundantly charged with muscovite mica crystals, many of which yield sheets of merchantable size and quality. The vein, which runs east and west, cuts the gneiss formation under an angle of 40 degrees, the dip being perpendicular, and is exposed by stripping for a distance of 300 feet. While the tock on either side, and in contact with it and throughout the country generally, is a comparatively fine grained aggregate of quartz, feldspar and hornblende with scaly portions of mica arranged in parallel layers, and no constituent predominating in any layer to the exclusion of the others, the vein matrix, on the other hand, consists of large and coarse crystalline masses of pure quartz, and flesh-coloured, or orthoclase feldspar, confus dly aggregated together, but perfectly distinct from, and

according to Dr. Hoffman (Report Geological Survey, 1881-82), gave

Oxide of uranium	10.75 per cent.
Oxide of yttrium	14.34 per cent.
Oxide of cerium and thorium	4.78 per cent.

Samples of these rarer minerals obtained from this property were also recently forwarded to Paris and an analysis revealed the existence of radium. Operations have now begun on the property with a view to principally search for and mine the rarer minerals and according to advices received, it is likely that the property may prove a valuable source for radium.