

The greatest in importance of the undeveloped minerals in the colony is, no doubt, Coal, of which two extensive fields have been discovered, one near St. George's Bay, in close proximity to huge masses of iron ore, and the other near Deer Lake, on the Humber river. Neither of these coal fields are any great distance from the coast, and must prove of immense economic importance in the near future. I take the few following extracts from the report of Mr. Howley, F.G.S., Government Geological Surveyor, of Newfoundland, on the subject of the coal fields in St. George's Bay, dated 6th March, 1890:—"The aggregate thickness of all these seams on the west side of the trough gives "between eighteen and twenty feet of coal. If we add to this the "seams on Robinson's River and the 'Northern Feeder,' we have a "total of about twenty-seven feet altogether, which is about ten feet less "than that of the North Sydney section. There are good grounds, "however, for believing that other seams not yet discovered exist in "this neighbourhood, especially in the central part of the trough. "Many fragments of loose coal were observed in the gravel overlying "the highest seam, which, judging from their character and position, "were apparently derived from a still higher seam." Of the character of the coal discovered he speaks as follows:—"The coal in "the Cleary seams closely resembles in external appearance that of the "Sydney mines, Cape Breton. It is bright, tolerably hard, and breaks "into square and oblong blocks. It is a bituminous caking coal, "burns well in an open grate, and leaves nearly a white ash. That of "the Jukes seam is entirely different. It presents a brilliant "glistening black appearance, breaks into small fragments, and is very "brittle, resembling in this respect some of the Welsh coals. It "burns freely in the open air, giving off but little smoke, and leaves a "white ash residue. Though bituminous, it does not clog the bars of "a grate, and altogether seems remarkably free from impurities."

The coal field of Deer Lake is even more promising than that described above; it was carefully examined by Mr. Howley during last summer, but his report is not yet out of the hands of the printer, so I am unable to quote from it. I think, however, that I have already given sufficient instances to shew that in the near future the minerals of Newfoundland must prove of great value to the Colony, besides being of importance to Great Britain and the Empire at large.

Another industry that has received a great impetus during the last few years is that of "lumbering," it is carried on chiefly in the valley of the Exploits river, the Gander, the Gambo, and the Humber rivers. To quote from the report of the geological survey for the year 1871—"The forest of the Exploits Valley consists of pine, spruce, balsam-fir, "tamarck, white birch, and poplar." There are large timber mills at the mouth of the Exploits river, owned by an English company, who at the time of my visit there last summer were sawing up about 1,000 logs a day, some of these logs having a diameter of 48 inches at the butt. The company has lumbering rights over several hundred square