

and saw mills on the river which flows through the slate band, cutting it nearly at right angles, offer great facilities for a factory of this kind—both the saw mill and shingle mill, which belong to the property, being capable of conversion into planing and polishing factories, whilst the farm buildings and dwelling houses would afford other accommodation required. From information obtained from business men in the city, I have reason to believe that there would arise in Halifax alone an extensive demand for mantle pieces and fire grate fittings; and also for school slates, which are at present imported from Germany. Some examples of school slates have been made by roughly polishing a few pieces picked from the surface. If carefully selected and properly prepared, there seems no good reason why Douglas slates should not take the place of imported slates in the schools throughout the Dominion. The market in the United States for manufactured slate of all kinds, both useful and ornamental, is very extensive.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to express very strongly my opinion that the slate properties above described are of a valuable character, and that if judiciously worked by a company possessed of moderate capital, the concern will prove a thoroughly safe and permanent investment. The slate exists in such quantities that the supplies are not likely to be exhausted for several generations, even if extensively worked. In order, however, that the property may be remunerative, and its value permanently maintained, it will be necessary to avoid waste of labor, waste of material, and unnecessary accumulations of rubbish, by establishing at the outset a thoroughly systematic method of working, by opening up a working face of sufficient extent to meet the probable demands. The facilities for drainage are such that under proper management there need not be much expense incurred for the next ten or twelve years, and before then, if the business has increased, probably new quarries will have been opened on other parts of the property.

GEORGE LAWSON, PH. D., LL. D.,  
*Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy,  
 Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.*