

## DR. DAWSON'S EVIDENCE.

(Continued.)

By Mr. Trow :—Q. There are quartz mines in Cariboo, are there not?—An attempt was made some years ago to work them, but, as far as I know, there is no mine now in operation. The difficulties are very great in some parts of the country owing chiefly to the cost of transport and supplies. Until very lately, it cost from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound to freight goods and supplies to Cariboo from Yale, according to the season, and such prices are so heavy a tax on expensive mining operations that it renders it impossible to work any but very high grade ores. In Omineca, still farther north, it costs 15 cents a pound to carry supplies into the district, and thus it is almost impossible for private miners to continue prospecting on their own resources, and unless they have a very rich claim which they can work, they must leave the country. One advantage of the construction of the railway and opening up of the interior will be that the poorer placer deposits will be extensively worked. Naturally, the very rich deposits form a very small part of the whole. Those of medium and poorer quality are more widespread, and when the cost of getting supplies is reduced to half its present price, a large number that do not pay to work at present will become available.

Q. Is Chinese labor employed very much at the mines? Chinese generally work on their own account in the gold mines. They choose placer mines, very often those which have been abandoned by the whites, who have picked the eyes out of the deposit, and they work for years in such localities in their own way. No one knows what they make, but it is enough no doubt to remunerate them, owing to their perseverance.

By Mr. Baker (Victoria):—Q. And their economical habits?—And economical habits.

By Mr. Hesson:—Q. Can you say anything in reference to silver?—I can say very little from personal knowledge about silver ores. There are several places where silver ores have been found, and the two most promising, so far as known, are—first, a locality at Hope, on Silver Peak, and, second, one at Cherry Creek, in the Okanagan country. Very rich ores have been brought from these, and mining attempted on both of them, but, from various circumstances, the mining has been practically stopped. In the case of the Hope mine, at least, the stoppage has not resulted from any failure of the vein, but was on account of questions regarding the management or sale of the mine. There is reason to hope that, ultimately, these two localities, and probably others, will be developed as productive silver mines. If one silver mine were started and found to pay as a commercial enterprise, probably it would lead to so much examination and prospecting of the country that many would be worked in a few years. I may also mention in this connection that we have received specimens of very rich argentiferous galena from Omineca, though from the distance of this district they cannot be worked under the present circumstances. They assay from \$20 to \$90 of silver to the ton of ore.

Q. The distance inland or up the coast?—Inland. The coast distances are comparatively little, because we have navigation, but the Omineca country lies far inland, near the Peace River.

By Mr. Allen:—Q. Is there a large amount of gold exported by the Chinese from British Columbia and

not accounted for?—No, I think not. It is accounted for, in the statement I gave, in this way. I went into it at considerable detail with Mr. Good, who was Deputy Minister of Mines at the time this general statement was first compiled, some years ago. We obtained from all the banks a statement of the gold they had sent out of the country, and from the express offices the same. Then, as a large quantity was known to be carried away by the Chinese and others, privately, without being recorded, one-third was added to the product of each year to represent that; so the statistics are not absolutely correct, but they approximate closely to the truth. I think much of the gold the Chinese get they carry away in that manner, without putting it into the hands of the banks.

By Mr. Fisher:—Q. Do you think the Chinese get one-third of all the gold in the country?—No; but many of the white miners carry away their gold themselves also. If they go to San Francisco, for example, they take the gold with them.

By the Chairman:—Q. Will you state your knowledge of the coal and lignite deposits of Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, and the Mainland?—Coal and lignite deposits are very widely spread in the Pacific Province. In this little publication to which I have referred several times as giving an account of the mining up to the date when it was issued ("Mines and Minerals of British Columbia—Report Geological Survey, 1876 77"), thirty-two different localities in which coal and lignites are known to occur are catalogued, and some of these are important and extensive districts. Many of them will be utilized as sources of fuel supply, either generally or locally. The Queen Charlotte Islands are prominent from this point of view on account of the fact that a seam of anthracite has been discovered there. This is the only workable seam of anthracite on the Pacific coast, either of America or Asia. The seam was about six feet thick and was worked for some distance, but was found to thin out. I believe, however, that the main trouble was that the Company had expended all their money on providing facilities for shipping the coal before doing much prospecting, and since it has not been much tested, and has fallen through. I examined the vicinity of the mine very carefully in 1878, and have a map showing the locality of the coal. I think the locality is a very promising one still, and deserves more attention; but nothing more precise can be said at present, because no work has been carried on for some years. The Comox and Nanaimo districts of Vancouver Island have been more thoroughly tested, and the latter has been the principal source of supply for some years. These have been mapped by Mr. Richardson of the Geological Survey. The map is on a scale of four miles to the inch, and is somewhat detailed, showing the actual area of known coal-bearing rocks in these two places, and all other necessary facts of structure. The coal seams at Comox and Nanaimo vary from four feet to six feet and ten feet in average thickness. They are occasionally much thicker, but this is the average. The quality of the coal I should mention particularly. It is not a lignite. It is true bituminous coal of very excellent quality. It was tested by the War Department of the United States, some years ago, to find out which fuels gave the best results for steam raising purposes on the western coast, and it was found that, to produce a given quantity of steam, it took 1,800 lbs. of Nanaimo coal to 2,400 lbs. of Seattle coal, 2,600 lbs. of Coos Bay coal, Oregon, and 2,600