

take out the apparently blazing socks, and, after giving them a shake, proceed just as deliberately to draw them on to his feet again, that was a trifle too much! Human nature could not stand that. Consequently the horrified spectators, having for a moment looked on aghast, fled precipitately from the room. To them the facts were clear enough. This, they said, was no human being like themselves: such hellish practices could have but one origin. If not the devil himself, this man certainly could be no other than one of his emissaries. So off they went in a body to the manager and demanded his instant dismissal, loudly asseverating that they would no longer eat, drink, or work in company with such a monster. Enquiry being at once set on foot, it turned out that sometime before leaving England the man had worked at an asbestos factory, where he had learned to appreciate the valuable properties of this mineral; and being of an ingenious turn of mind, he had managed to procure some of the fibrous material and therewith knit himself a pair of socks, which he was accustomed to cleanse in the manner described. He was, as has been said, an unusually good workman, consequently his employers had no wish to part with him. Explanation and expostulation, however, were all in vain: nothing could remove the horrible impression that his conduct had made upon the minds of his superstitious fellow workmen: go he must and did, nor could the tumult be in any way allayed until he had been dismissed from his work and had left the yard."

Great Britain's Mineral Production.—As a raiser of minerals, Great Britain still maintains the proud position of being in front of the United States or any other nation. The quantity of iron ore raised in the States last year is estimated at eleven million three hundred thousand tons, against ten million tons in the previous year. It is interesting to observe that in Great Britain the quantity of ore mined in 1886 was fourteen million one hundred and ten thousand tons; the exact figures for 1887 are not available. Turning now to coal, the facts of the case show yet more in England's favour. The coal raised last year in America is returned as thirty-four million six hundred and forty-one thousand tons from the anthracite seams, and eighty-five million five hundred thousand tons from the bituminous seams, making an aggregate production of one hundred and twenty million one hundred and forty-seven thousand tons. The returns of the inspectors of mines for Great Britain give a gross tonnage of one hundred and sixty-two million one hundred and twenty thousand tons. The position which America has attained as an iron and steel and mineral producer should not be cause wholly for envy, but rather of admiration—for is not America the child of the mother country?

FOR SALE.

A COAL MINE IN CAPE BRETON.

Area, 970 acres, underlain by 6 or 7 beds of the best coal in Nova Scotia. The property is estimated to contain from 50 to 60 million tons of Coal. No Coal Mine can be more easily or cheaply operated. The angle of dip is 6 degrees, and the rock stratification is remarkably even and without fault or break.

Apply to

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,
Annapolis Royal, N.S.

June 12th, 1888.

The Canadian Mining Review

CONDUCTED BY H. T. A. BELL.

OFFICES:

UNION CHAMBERS, 14 Metcalfe St.

OTTAWA.

Vol. VI. JUNE, 1888. No. 6.

Subscribers in arrear with their subscriptions will oblige with an early settlement. All unpaid accounts of this nature will be placed in the hands of our Solicitors for collection.

Minerals and Geology of Ontario and Quebec.

Chapman's Minerals and Geology of Ontario and Quebec, a copy of which is before us, is the most valuable manual of its kind which has made its appearance in Canada to the geologist and student, and is evidence of the deep interest taken by its writer in that branch of study—a study which, from the attention now being given to our mineral resources, promises to become the most valuable from every point of view, whether of the capitalist or the man of scientific pursuits. A similar work on a small scale preceded the present publication, but the exigencies of the times demanded and have called forth this new work in which the subject matter of the previous edition has been greatly extended. The properties by which minerals are determined are clearly stated, with descriptions of the same, and so plainly is this effected that the name of any ordinary mineral met with in Ontario and Quebec can be easily ascertained. The geological features of the two provinces are accurately described, and paleontology is so well placed before the reader with the means of studying it, that fossils need no longer be the sealed book they hitherto have been with the collector and the student. The whole is embellished with cuts and plates, which materially help these: using this handbook to determine for themselves various specimens of a doubtful nature. A complete index, which acts as a table of reference is found at the end of the book, and besides being of great use as a table of contents, it forms also a list of the mineral products of the provinces which it embraces. To the prospector and the mining engineer the work must prove of great value; and in the Port Arthur district, amongst the Buckingham phosphate miners, and wherever iron deposits are being worked, we predict its usefulness will create a ready sale and active demand for it. In part III, the section devoted to mineral veins, is especially worthy of notice, and the various theories as to their origin, formation and existence are carefully written, and throw much light on a long vexed question. In part V, the section devoted to the Lower Ottawa district is of great interest to us locally, and the fossil fish and other organic remains found in the vicinity of Green's Creek, and in the boulder clay of the surrounding country are treated of. Geology as a study is more deeply followed by the present genera-

tion, than by their forefathers, to whom the surface soil was of greater value for their farming purposes than the underlying strata, whose hidden treasures were unknown to them. But with the progress of the country, education has progressed also, and the desire is now manifest on all sides to gain an insight into these natural resources of wealth which nature has so long ago stored up beneath our feet, waiting only the prying eye of science to explore. Professor Chapman's book will materially aid this search, and a careful perusal of its pages will save much unnecessary labour in prospecting where the signs he gives are wanting; whilst the knowledge given by indications pointed out by him will lead with a little care and discretion to the finding of mineral veins in places probably unlooked for or passed by from want of that knowledge. The value of this book to the public at large is far superior to the ordinary reports published by the Geological Survey, for while the latter deal with areas and sections of country from a scientific point of view, they convey no recommendations as to the probable results, or to richness and extent of mineral deposits. This volume in fact contains the pith of those reports, embellished with the writer's own ideas and deductions, and is in so concise and readable a form that its very size contributes to add to its usefulness. We consider it a handbook which should be in every library, and which no one interested in mining matters should be without. The publication is well got up, and although some of the cuts, particularly the fossils, are a little indistinct, the type, paper and binding are all good and would compare favourably with any English production. The publishers are Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto.

Natural Combustible Gas.

The Report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Province of Quebec for 1887, just received, states that the gold mining license fees last year amounted to \$28, while the expenses incurred in their collection, and for the maintenance of police in connection therewith, reached the sum of \$2,416.80. The yield of gold is not stated.

The Report contains, in addition to the ordinary appendices on its transactions, a very interesting and exhaustive report by Mr. J. Obalski, Government Mining Engineer, on natural combustible gas, and the gas resources of the Province of Quebec, a subject which at the present moment is engaging general attention and which is worthy of more than a mere passing notice.

Mr. Obalski gives it as his opinion that the discovery of gas in a district would immediately raise the value of property considerably, while new industries would spring up there, especially should facilities be afforded them in the shape of cheap land and cheap gas. Opinions, he says, vary as to the origin of natural gas. Some admit that it is produced by the decom-