

300 or 400 men. In the vicinity of Storrington and Bedford a great many farmers have it on their properties in small pockets or deposits, and they mine a few tons of it during the summer time, and take it to Kingston, where they always find a market for it.

Q. What do they realize for it?—The average price I have paid for it was \$12 to \$14 a ton, according to the quality.

Q. Will you now explain to the Committee the extent and nature of the work that is going on here in the Ottawa Valley? Over what section of country does the phosphate extend?—The most extensive work is now being carried on at the Rivière aux Lièvres. To my knowledge the region where phosphate is to be found is about thirty miles in width, and I have been as far as 100 miles to the north, and found it.

Q. So that you have reason to believe that that country is underlaid with phosphate of a greater or less richness.—Yes.

Q. What is the output?—The Union Phosphate Mining and Land Company has given out about 3,200 tons during last year. At this mine a year ago there was not a tree chopped, nor a road to the works, and at the present day we employ eighty men, and we have steam drills, hoists, tramways and cobbing house. This is an American company, and we have stored at the station to date 2,850 tons. The High Rock Phosphate Mining Company, adjacent to ours, has given about 5,000 tons during the past year, of which about 4,500 tons have been stored at the station. The output of the Emerald Phosphate Company has been about 3,000 tons, and of the Dominion Company about 1,200 tons. There are also several other mines in operation, which are worked by private parties on a small scale.

Q. Would you give the Committee an approximate idea of the gross output in that region?—The output during the last year—that is from last spring to this spring—and stored at Buckingham station, is about 14,000 tons.

Q. What quality of ore do you bring to the station?—Anything over 75 per cent. is considered a marketable phosphate.

Q. And anything under that?—It is hard to find a market for it. We never bring ore to the station that is less than 68 per cent. We do not send anything below 75 per cent. to England, and the grades between, say 68 and 75 per cent. we find a market for in this country, probably at Chicago, and anything below 68 per cent. is considered as refuse and unfit for shipment.

Q. Then, of course the real product of the mine, including what you call refuse, is vastly more than these figures you have given?—Certainly.

Q. How many men are employed to produce this output?—From 300 to 400 men are employed in this industry in that section of country.

Q. Is this ore that is brought from the mines to the railway station sent away in its raw state?—Yes; all of it.

Q. None of it is manufactured into fertilizers in this country?—But very little, to my knowledge.

By Mr. Dawson:

Q. Where is it sent to?—England and Hamburg (Germany), are the chief markets.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the cost of freight from the railway station at Buckingham to the European ports?—About \$7 a ton, on an average.

Q. What range of prices is realized in England and Hamburg from the sale of this raw phosphate?—The average price per ton for a guarantee of 80 per cent. during the past year, has been from 1s. ½d. to 1s. 3d. per unit is ½d. per unit would be about \$22.45 per ton.

Q. How much cash does your company disburse there in a year?—Since we began, we have disbursed over \$60,000, and we have been working only one year.

Q. Have you induced a good deal of American capital to come here for investment in these mines?—Yes.

Q. There is some English capital invested there also, is there not?—Yes; it is the success of the High Rock Company that has attracted the attention of capitalists, and induced them to invest in other properties.