

OUR GOLD FIELDS IN QUEBEC.

IN view of the increased interest which has of late been manifested in the mineral resources of the Province of Quebec, not only as regards the comparatively new mineral asbestos, in the production of which Canada may now be said to lead the world, but also in the development of large and new bodies of copper ore, the great value of which as a source of supply for acid is just beginning to be fully realized, it is a matter for enquiry why the gold fields of the Province, concerning which so much has in former years been recorded, should have failed to attract the attention which they so evidently deserve. For that in the Province of Quebec there exists a very large extent of territory containing rich deposits of gold, not only in the alluvions of its ancient river channels, but in many of the quartz veins which traverse the slates and sandstones of the Chaudiere and Ditton Districts, and of the whole belt of similar rocks which extend along the eastern portion of the Province contiguous to the boundary of New Hampshire and a portion of Maine, has been very conclusively established. One has but to take up the papers written on this subject by the late Mr. James Douglas, of Quebec, or to glance over the earlier reports of the Geological Survey, more especially those from 1847 to 1866, to see that in this area, the chances for profitable gold mining under suitable Government regulations and proper management, are unsurpassed by any other portion of the Dominion and possibly even by the adjoining States.

The evidence also presented before the Select Committee appointed by the Quebec Government in 1865 to consider the question of the Chaudiere gold field, while containing doubtless some statements bordering on the sensational, and therefore requiring to be cautiously accepted, present