

red-coloured rocks were heavier than others, he ballasted with them. At St. John's these red ballast rocks were thrown out on one of the wharves, and happened to attract the attention of some one who knew something of minerals. They were red hematite—iron ore—which on analysis proved very rich and valuable. Very soon, rights of search and mining were taken out, and the fortunate finders were not long in disposing of their property for what was to them a considerable sum of money. The first capitalists to take hold of the

tons are within reach in the Dominion Iron and Steel Company's mines, and six millions of tons in that portion still retained by the Nova Scotia Steel Company, without counting that obtainable by deep mining and excavating under the sea. The ore can be mined at the smallest possible cost. It is so near the surface that the work is quarrying rather than mining, and all the miners have to do is to dig off the overlying soil, which varies in depth from six inches, or even less, to three feet, and there are the beds of ore, in one outcrop



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mine were the Nova Scotia Steel Company, and they, after working it with profit for some years, sold out the greater part of it a year ago to the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, whose immense works at Sydney, Cape Breton, now in course of construction, are being built for the purpose of smelting and manufacturing iron and steel from Bell Isle ore, and promise to make Sydney the Pittsburg of Canada. The price paid for the mine was one million of dollars.

The deposits of iron ore are enormous. Twenty-eight millions of

three and a half miles long, and in the other a mile and a half—"densely cemented, fine grained red hematite, having slaty cleavage, and breaking up readily into small rhomboidal blocks." So far, mining has been confined to what is called the lower bed. Here there are three mines—the Centre, East, and West Mines, connected together and with the loading wharf by a double track tramway operated by endless steel cables. The ore, which is mined by steam drilling from the surface to the depth of the bed, a series of ten