

1,800 to 2,000 feet, and it has been traced for about two miles, but the important commercial question is not so much whether they are veins but whether the deposits will pay.

Q. What are the indications of a true fissure vein?—Cutting the stratification, as according to the accepted idea of a vein.

Q. Have you any knowledge, either personally or by hearsay, of the mineral deposits of British Columbia?—No; I have known men who worked out there.

Q. They seem to say that everything is upside down there, and where you should go to the top the ore is on the bottom, and where you should go to the right it is to the left?—If they would closely observe the breaks, they would be able to form some idea.

*By Mr. Ferguson:*

Q. Do you think there is a market in Canada for sulphuric acid, or could it be shipped abroad?—It could be shipped abroad, probably not in the form of sulphuric acid, but associated with phosphates in the manufacture of superphosphates and other products, into the manufacture of which sulphuric acid enters. The company I represent have some idea of starting the manufacture of sulphuric acid. If they get some encouragement, they would also make superphosphates and other chemical compounds. There is a large demand for it in France, and the Eastern Provinces would use superphosphates too. The retail price of superphosphates in England is £4 a ton. They import not only superphosphates, but they get the Tarsis ores.

Q. They say there is a large quantity of phosphates exported to England?—Yes; for the purpose of making superphosphates.

Q. You say they produce it there for about £4 a ton?—They sell it in the district of Devon at £4 a ton retail, and they give a discount to the farmers for cash payments.

Q. What encouragement do you think such a Company ought to have or would be necessary to induce them to engage in its manufacture in this country?—I think they should be allowed to bring in their plant and their material to make the plant free of duty.

Q. Would that amount of encouragement conduce to that end?—I think they ought to have a subsidy. There is a rebate on articles manufactured from iron in Canada, when it is exported. We are now in our mine, working copper by smelting and making a 3 per cent. article into a 25 per cent. article, that requiring labor for its production. To do that we incur great expense in material besides the labor. A large part of the material is taxed and our copper has no privilege at all and has to be sold in a free market, if in Great Britain, or to pay import duty if sent to the United States. All the capital invested in the mines is foreign capital, either from Great Britain or the United States. If we could get some way of getting a subsidy on our 25 per cent. article in proportion to the manufacture, it would be a great encouragement.

*By Mr. Baker:*

Q. These mines to which you have referred as putting out 5,000 tons a month, do they pay?—I may mentioned that one mine which is in the hands of a single firm, commenced with the production of from 200 to 360 tons a month and have gone up to 2,000 tons a month.

Q. They would then have, under the most favourable circumstances, a fair return for their money?—They are now working under the most unfavourable circumstances; the copper is a low per cent. ore and we do not use in this country the sulphur, which forms a very large proportion of the product of the mine.

*By Mr. Ferguson:*

Q. Do you think it is important that our Geological Survey should point out these things to us?—Yes; some of these rudiments might be taught in the public schools, and you could thus train boys to observation, for this work. I have been working in Canada for thirty years, and I have gone by the natural laws, as obtained by me from Henwood's Geology. I have found that the natural laws, allowing for circumstances, are to a great extent the same as in the old country.