

foundland, the seat of an important copper-mining industry. The felsites, etc., of Laurentian age, seem to be the principal copper-containing rocks. At Coxheath, near Sydney, the Eastern Development Co., of Boston, are gradually developing a property which promises to become an important copper producer. This locality being close to iron ore, limestone, and coal, and on tide water, is unusually well situated to form the site of an important centre for smelting the copper ore, not only of Cape Breton, but of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, etc.

The commencement of copper smelting at this point will undoubtedly direct the attention of prospectors to the numerous signs of copper ore in Cape Breton, and the supply of ore in large amounts can be safely calculated on.

The brief reference which the author has given above covers all the minerals of Nova Scotia, that have hitherto received any attention. There are in addition ores of molybdenum, zinc, nickel and cobalt, pyrites, graphite, asbestos, etc., but they are known almost entirely from samples, and no attempt has been made to test any of the deposits.

Building-stone, ochres, infusorial earth, clays, etc., abound, and are used to a small extent for local requirements. The building-stones embrace grey and red granites, syenites, freestone, marbles, etc., of excellent quality, and usually in the vicinity of shipment.

The Government of the province retains gold, silver, iron, coal, lead, copper, tin, and precious stones, and allows the other minerals to pass in fee in the Crown land grants. Leases are given for periods of forty to eighty years, on the usual conditions, subject to a royalty of 2 per cent. in the case of gold and silver, of from 10 to 12½ cents per long ton on coal sold, and of 5 cents per long ton of iron ore sold or smelted. A special department of the Government is charged with the care of the leases, etc., and a special registration is established free of cost.

From these brief remarks it will be seen that a promising development has been made in coal, iron, and gold, enough to show the extent and value of these three resources. All other minerals appear to have been hitherto practically ignored. This may be due to the absence of men accustomed to seek and utilize them, as well as to the lack of interest manifested by the inhabitants of the province, who devote their attention more especially to lumbering, farming, and fishing. The widespread indications of mineral wealth warrant the hope that their appropriate development will take place at an early date.

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