

working on mineral. The owners of this property, the Dominion Phosphate Company, are well pleased with the way it has developed, and are sanguine that it will yield abundantly when thoroughly opened up.

The Lièvre River Phosphate Company, incorporated in July last, are now engaged in active mining operations. At their "Battle Lake" mine, in Templeton, 23 men are employed, who are turning out a fair quantity of high grade phosphate, and at their "Prospect" mine, in Portland East, 9 men have begun to open up some promising deposits from which they extracted from the surface a ton a day per man; this average is, however, not likely to be maintained as they sink deeper.

The Templeton and Wakefield mines will continue to contribute their quota to the output of the County of Ottawa.

The complete returns of the year's shipments of phosphate from Ottawa County has not yet reached us, but we have no reason to think that 23,000 tons, the amount we mentioned as the probable total output, will be much astray. The Perth and Kingston districts have contributed about 2,000 tons additional.

Phosphate Quotations.

At this season of the year there is little or no movement in Canadian Phosphate abroad, and late sales are, therefore, not an indication of the general market. Our latest advices quote one shilling for seventy-five per cent. mineral with one-fifth of a penny rise.

Facilitating Transportation of Phosphate.

RIVIERE DU LIEVRE IMPROVEMENTS.

Short Line Railway from Buckingham Village to C.P.Ry. Depot under Contract.

There has been an unaccountable delay in beginning work on the Little Rapids Lock, but the surveys have been made by the Engineers of the Department of Public Works, and the plans are completed. The Government have not, as yet, invited tenders for its construction, but it is not unlikely that this will be done shortly and that work will be begun on the lock before the close of the year. That it should be built is very important to the phosphate miners in the Lièvre district as it will enable them to float their mineral down the river in large vessels for transportation to the

SHORT LINE RAILWAY

at its terminus at the landing, north of Buckingham Village, and thus connect with an all-rail route over the Canadian Pacific Railway from this point to Montreal. This branch railway will be built by the C.P.R. Company under its charter for the Northern Colonization Railway and the contract has been awarded to Mr. Thos. Raeside, who has already a force of men employed clearing the right-of-way, and it is expected that he will put a sufficient force to work at the grading to have the road-bed ready to receive the rails by the first week in December. This branch line will be a boon indeed to the phosphate men, and by the time the output will have begun to move in the winter the necessity of hauling their phosphate from Buckingham Village to the railway station will be a disadvantage of the past.

With the lock completed at the Little Rapids, and this short line railway constructed to the landing, the transportation of ore from the mines to Montreal, both in winter and summer, will be greatly facilitated.

A New Mining Company Organized.

A meeting of the shareholders of the Lièvre River Land and Phosphate Company (Limited), recently incorporated, was held at the company's office, No. 41 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal, on the 14th of October, and the following gentlemen were elected directors: Robert C. Adams, W. R. Elmenhorst, Wm. T. Costigan and Peter Lyall, of Montreal; Charles H. Trask, of New York; and A. F. Freeman, of Boston. At a subsequent meeting of the directors Robert C. Adams was elected President; W. R. Elmenhorst, Vice-President; Wm. T. Costigan, Treasurer; and J. Keith Reid, Secretary. As has been stated in a former issue of this journal, the L. R. L. & P. Company, limited, has acquired extensive areas of phosphate lands in Ottawa County, in the townships of Templeton, Portland west and Portland east. The company is now engaged in active mining operations.

THE MICA MINES

It is gratifying to hear the satisfactory reports that reach us almost daily from the mica mines that are in operation. The mines are improving with development in a marked degree, not only as concerns the increase in the quantity of mica obtainable, but the mineral in all cases has improved in quality as lower depths are reached. Near the surface the leaves of many of the crystals were discolored and thus impaired in market value; but it would seem that these defects almost entirely disappear at a depth beyond atmospheric influence. At one

mine in particular, where the mica was very generally discolored by oxide of iron, it is only in exceptional cases that crystals thus affected are now met with. In the township of Loughborough, Province of Ontario, a mine, producing mica of an amber shade, is being profitably worked, and from mines in North Burgess a quantity of excellent mica is being shipped each month. In the townships of Palmerston and Miller a fine quality of mica occurs but as yet the deposits are quite undeveloped. In the township of Villeneuve a very valuable mine is yielding mica in large quantity and in quality unexcelled on this continent: this mine, when more developed, will be a heavy producer, as the deposit is very extensive and the crystals well formed.

Asbestos Mining in Canada.

An article under the above heading appeared in the last number of this journal, and we are now in receipt of a communication, from a gentleman residing in the district where the industry is being so vigorously developed, requesting us to add the following facts: The Megantic mines have produced, up to Oct. 1st, one thousand tons of asbestos, the principal operators being—The

Boston Asbestos Packing Company, The Johnston Company, King Brothers, J. G. Ross, Senator and Wards, whose mines are in the township of Thetford; L. A. Senecal, Charles Lyonais and James Reed, in Coleraine; and the Chalmers Spence Company in the township of Broughton. The yield from all these mines has been most satisfactory to their owners, and the output has been disposed of at such prices as to leave a large margin of profit. The late discoveries on the property of Mr. Lyonais, in Coleraine, are said to be of much importance to mine owners in that section, and our correspondent adds that facilities for mining in Coleraine are all that can be desired, and that this township will, with the further development of its mines, contribute largely to the general output of this asbestos producing district. The mines have been visited during the season by a number of scientists and experts from Europe and the United States, all of whom were most favourably impressed. Strange to say that, up to the present time, no officer of the Geological Survey has visited these mines this year, and it is to be hoped that before the mining season closes some one of the staff will be sent through the district to collect complete information and to report progress in this important industry.

LAKE SUPERIOR MINES.

NEW DISCOVERIES REPORTED.

MINING OPERATIONS ACTIVE.

In an effort to boom the mines in Port Arthur District, the reports that have been circulated, respecting the richness and inexhaustible quantity of the ore that is being raised, sound like wild romance to the practical miner and the cool and collected, calculating capitalist. That the discoveries made during the past eighteen months are of much importance no one can question, and the result of the development work that has already been done, up to the present time, on some of the lodes, has been such as to warrant preparations for permanent mining operations; but any attempt to mislead the public by foolishly exaggerated reports will serve no good, practical purpose to the district, though it may be the means of putting money into the pockets of a few speculators.

The Rabbit Mountain Silver Mining Company are at work again on its location, and if the miners should be fortunate enough to work into a series of pockets of rich ore, such as the one that was first met with, the property must yield a handsome profit to its owners. From this one pocket, which occurred quite near the surface, the original proprietors of the mine extracted upwards of \$100,000 worth of silver, chiefly in the form of black silver nuggets, at small cost, and on which the reputation of the mine was established. We now hear that at the depth of 80 feet, in a drift, the miners have come upon another body of rich ore. The excitement of the moment has led people to circulate the report that this new pay-streak measures two feet in width and yields ore assaying 4,000 ounces of silver to the ton. This is certainly a wonderful strike, if report be true. Referring to the "Rabbit Mountain," the N.Y. *Mining Record*, in its issue of October 18th, remarks that "this Canada silver mine was referred to not many months ago, by one of the remarkable people who purvey editorial matter for the leading daily newspapers of this city (New York), as likely to increase the already too large output of silver in the United States." This property is now in the hands of men who are amply capable of providing all the facilities necessary to proceed with active operations to the best advantage, and with Captain John Trethewey, formerly of Silver Islet, as superintendent, there exists no reason why the mine should not, henceforth, be worked in a thoroughly mining-like and practical manner, and the public will, at all times, be pleased to hear sensible reports of satisfactory progress.