

**Gold in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.**

His Excellency the Governor of New Brunswick, states in his speech at the opening of the New Brunswick Parliament, that the Imperial Government were agreed to sanction any "well considered" arrangement for facilitating commercial intercourse between the different provinces of British North America, and promises to lay the correspondence which has taken place upon the subject before the House. The extensive discoveries of gold are noticed, and the Parliament informed that the geological formation of the country not unreasonably induces a belief that similar discoveries may be made in New Brunswick. His Excellency therefore recommends the consideration of such amendments as "may be needed in the existing laws relative to mining operations, in order to meet the requirements of such a contingency.

**The Great Underground Treasury.**

The wealth of England is so intimately connected with her mineral resources, that like a careful trader she annually "takes stock" of all her operations, and publishes the returns—having no reason to be ashamed of them—for the information of the world. Our capital, our machinery, our skilled artisans, might all emigrate, if our home-born supply of coals and iron were to fail. The materials could, indeed, be brought to us from abroad, but it would be cheaper still, as the prophet found it of old, to go to the uncomplying mountain. When we visited Swansea in 1848, there were ships in her docks laden with Australian copper ore, and ship-loads encumbered the quays. Cottages ornamented their window-sills with malachite and azurite, and bordered their garden-plots with the green and blue mineral. It is not so now; the colonists import our coal instead of sending us their ores, and the produce of the Burraburra is smelted at the mines. Sir Henry de la Beche, in the Inaugural Discourse at the opening of the School of Mines, in November, 1851, valued the mineral produce of Great Britain and Ireland at twenty-four million pounds per annum, or about four-ninths of that of all Europe, including these islands; an amount more than three times greater than the mining produce of Russia and Poland, and four times that of France. In Mr. Hunt's "Mineral Statistics for 1860," the returns exhibit a total amount of thirty-seven millions, exclusive of the building-stone, brick earth, and similar materials, estimated in the statistics of the previous year at nearly eight millions sterling. The coal returns for England and Wales, during the year 1860 show an extraordinary increase. It may be remembered that in Mr. Hull's "Coal fields of Great Britain," the coal raised in 1858 was stated to be 57 million tons, and the *present and future* produce was estimated at 60 millions. Upon this assumption, the coal fields of England and Wales, it was calculated, would last 1,000 years; whereas upon our estimate of the present rate of *annually increasing* consumption, we should exhaust all our available coal in the space of a century. The actual produce of 1859 was 61½ millions of tons; and last year it mounted up to 69 millions, or with the addition of the Scottish coal mines, to 80 millions; besides which, there were four million tons of small coal left useless on the pit banks. At this rate there can

be little doubt we shall raise 90 million tons of coal by the year 1862; and the only check we can anticipate is the overgrowth of the mining population already estimated at half-a-million by Professor Morris in his recent lectures on coal. The total amount of coal exported in the year 1860 was 6,788,060 tons, being little more than the total of the preceding year; while the exportation to France has experienced a slight falling off. Next to coal, the most important articles are copper, iron, lead, and other metals, the value of which will be shown most readily by Mr. Hunt's summary of the mining produce of Great Britain and Ireland for two years.

	1859.	1860.
Coal.....	£17,994,951	£20,010,674
Iron.....	11,138,712	12,703,950
Copper.....	1,734,700	1,706,291
Lead.....	4,410,095	1,417,415
Tin.....	929,390	871,882
Silver.....	159,507	151,173
Zinc.....	75,782	89,537
Other minerals	95,000	170,927
	£33,538,027	£37,121,318

**The Critic.****Gold in the Saskatchewan.**

The Red River *Non-Western* states that gold has without doubt been discovered on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains as low down the North Branch of the Saskatchewan as Carlton. Parties are organizing for a journey to the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia, at Selkirk Settlement, in many parts of Canada, and Minnesota. No doubt this summer will witness an attempt to establish an overland route through British territory to the gold fields of our sister colony.

**Wood for Shipbuilding.**

Professor Grace Calvert is now making an investigation for the Admiralty of different kinds of wood used in ship-building. It appears that the Professor is at no loss to explain why so many of the fleet of recently-constructed gunboats became rotten and others escaped untouched. He finds the goodness of teak to consist in the fact that it is highly charged with caoutchouc; and that, if the tannin be soaked out of a block of oak, it may then be interpenetrated by a solution of caoutchouc, and thereby rendered as lasting as teak. A few years ago an enterprising individual spent £30,000 in trying to introduce a new wood for shipbuilding purposes from South America, where it is known by the name of Santa Maria; but the dockyard authorities could not be persuaded to take it into use, and the imports were entirely neglected. This is one of the specimens investigated by the Manchester professor; and he finds it to be sound and resinous, and but little inferior to teak. Of the durability of teak there can be no question.

It is proposed to erect a Crystal Palace in Paris on the plan of that at Sydenham. A company with a capital of 25,000,000fr. is in course of formation: Sir Joseph Paxton is at the head of the architectural department, Mr. Edwin Clarke is appointed consulting engineer, and Mr. Thomas Brassey is to be the contractor. The building is to be erected in the Bois du Boulogne.