

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC AS A FIELD FOR EMIGRATION.

NO part of the world offers greater inducements than Quebec to those interested in mining. Mining in Canada, however, is a very different thing from mining in England, Wales, or Scotland. In old countries the mineral wealth lying near the surface of the earth has been long exhausted, and mining must be prosecuted many hundred feet below the upper air. In new countries like Canada, not one-tenth part of the ore beds cropping out to the very surface are yet known, and there are not half-a-dozen cases in which operations are as yet carried on without the aid of sunlight. But there are yet other differences. Coal is wanting in the Province of Quebec, and charcoal has to be used for smelting. Consequently trade often takes the form of exporting ore, carefully selected and even dressed; or if smelting is done, it produces the finer kinds of iron or copper by a process altogether strange to Englishmen of the present day. Often, too, the capitalist who raises ore has to be the exporter as well—the principle of division of labour not having been yet extensively applied to mining industry in Canada. It follows, therefore, that an indiscriminate emigration to Canada of ordinary English miners might not be profitable to them. Let us speak more in detail of the character of the mining operations carried on, and then every one can judge for himself:—

1. *Gold*—A great extent of country in the Province of Quebec is richly auriferous. On the Chaudiere River and its tributaries an annually increasing quantity of alluvial gold is washed out, and several mills for crushing gold quartz are being erected there and on the St. Francis River. The method of washing out the gold is very primitive as yet. Two, three, or half-a-dozen men agree to work together, lease a piece of ground on the bank of a river, and dig out the "pay dirt," which they wash themselves in a hand-cradle or in a sluice. Water and water-power are so plentiful that no difficulty on this score as yet presents itself. So in quartz mining half a dozen men with a few dollars of capital can unite, make terms for a location on a lead, and set to work. A man with a small capital having some knowledge of metallurgy can hardly fail to do well if, selecting a good spot, he engage in quarrying out quartz and the blue slate walls of the quartz veins, and either put up his own crushing and amalgamating mills or send the quartz to custom crushers. This industry is well established in Nova Scotia, it is now taking good root in Ontario, in a few years it will become firmly established in Quebec, in which the ranges of hills which run from near Montreal to the New Brunswick frontier—many hundreds of miles—have been proved to be intersected by gold quartz veins in numberless places. Gold washing and digging now employs less than 200 men; but there is room for ten times that number in the mining regions already in part developed.

2. *Copper*—The Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec abound in copper ore. Several hundred places are known where the veins crop out upon the surface, and as many more yet await discovery on the removal of the forests. Several mines are largely worked. At Acton hundreds of tons of ore have been quarried out of the side of a hill. The only place where levels and adits have been driven to any considerable extent is at Harvey Hill, where large smelting works were in course of erection, which have recently been injured by fire. In all other places copper mining is just like quarrying for stone or slate—an open-air employment.

3. *Iron*—All the Laurentian mountain range abounds in iron deposits. The bog iron ore of Three Rivers has until lately been the chief source of profit, but lately works have been undertaken on a very extensive scale at two opposite points at Hull, near Ottawa, where there is a mountain of peroxide of iron at the Moisie River, Gulf of St. Lawrence, where the same peroxide is found in the shape of iron sand near the sea-shore, the deposits covering hundreds of acres and being many feet in depth, quite pure. Both at Hull and at the Moisie smelting is carried on by means of charcoal furnaces; in neither place is there underground working.

4. *Plumbago* is a common mineral on the Laurentian range, chiefly developed, at yet, at Buckingham, on the Ottawa River. The workings are mere quarry-work, and the ore is powdered and worked by hydraulic separators. Lead is found in several places; a small mine is worked at Gaspé. Slate quarrying is becoming an established industry in the townships. Manganese is to be found in Gaspé; antimony in Ham township. In the Gaspé district there are strong indications of petroleum, and though no wells have yet been sunk which yield anything approaching the supplies to be found in Ontario, still further endeavours are likely to be well repaid.

From all this it will be understood that, while there is no great immediate labour market for English miners, yet any one going to Quebec and keeping his mind set upon the development of its mineral resources must soon succeed—not only in finding work, but, perhaps, in making a large fortune, by purchasing and developing mines. The statistics of the mining industry of Quebec and Ontario have not been kept separately in years past, but together the exports of products of the mines has increased from \$36,582 or £7,000 sterling in 1850, to \$600,000 or £125,000 sterling a year now. The consumption of such products within the country is, perhaps, equally large.

It only remains for us to speak of one other great branch of industry—the fisheries. The Gulf of St. Lawrence teems with cod, herring, mackerel, halibut, alewives, lobsters, and a number of other fish. The same remark applies to fishing as to mining—that it is carried on in Canada on quite a different system from that pursued in Europe. For instance, mackerel are caught by hook and line, not by nets; codfish are caught off shore in open boats, not by sea-going craft; lobsters are not taken in creels, but often picked up along the rocks with long blunt sticks—so that

an English, Scotch, or Irish fisherman would probably find himself out of his element for the first few weeks of his sojourn in Quebec. But no one will fail to see that where fish are plentiful, the means of getting them to market reasonably good, and the expense of living low, there must be a fine field for labour and capital to be employed in fishing. The fisherman in the province of Quebec is usually a small farmer, too. He owns a hundred acres or so, and when not engaged in fishing he is clearing and cultivating land, or when hot weather forbids him to do either he is often engaged in building boats or even schooners, and perhaps from timber felled on his own farm.

Behind all the points we have touched upon in this and the preceding articles on the same subject there is one great vantage-ground which the province of Quebec presents to the emigrant at this special time. A great expenditure is about to be made—first, in building the Intercolonial Railway from Riviere du Loup to unite with the New Brunswick lines, and, 2nd, in constructing great fortifications in the neighbourhood of Montreal. These works will be begun this year and will be in full blast the next. The former, especially, will afford employment to thousands of men—labourers, foremen, mechanics of all kinds, clerks, surveyors and engineers. When the line is built, the country on both sides of it, now in many places uninhabited, will become a permanent abode of many of those employed in its construction and working. Here, then, is a country several miles in length, which will be opened up to the poor, to the energetic, to the industrious, who, settling on it, will find themselves increasing in prosperity as the country itself grows rich by the development of its agricultural, lumbering, mining, and manufacturing industry—a country not, like the Western United States, shut up in the interior of a great continent, to whose inhabitants the sight of the sea is an unheard-of thing, but near the Atlantic coast, within a day's ride of the sea-shore, within ten days' steaming of Old England, with the markets of the world accessible, under the protection of laws like those of England, and, what is better still, likely to remain for generations under the shadow of the British flag.

TRADE OF TORONTO.

THE following figures show the amount of imports at this port during the month of May, 1868, and the corresponding period last year:

	1868.	1867.
Dutiable goods.....	\$290,272 00	\$363,024 00
Free goods.....	83,595 00	129,103 00
Copyright works.....	25 00	66 00
Total.....	\$373,892 00	\$492,193 00
Amount of duty.....	69,064 37	62,825 15

We have here a decrease in imports to the amount of \$118,301, but an increase of revenue to the amount of \$6,229 22.

The following figures show the amount of goods exported from this port during the same period:

	1868.	1867.
Produce of the Mine.....	200	96
" Fisheries.....	—	96
" Forest.....	80,978	54,048
Animals and their products.....	840	300
Agricultural products.....	141,708	304,068
Manufactures.....	670	1,208
Total produce of Canada.....	\$224,191	\$359,920
Goods not do.....	964	—
Total.....	\$224,555	\$359,920

FLAX CULTURE.—Mr. Michael Andrews, junior Secretary to the Flax Extension Association, Belfast, writes as follows to the Belfast News Letter:—

Those of your readers who are growing flax this year may perhaps find the following observations worthy of attention:—Owing to the weather this spring being so unusually favourable to vegetation, the flax crop will arrive at the stage to require weeding much earlier than it generally does. Five to seven inches is about the proper height the plant should have attained before weeding the crop, but from the rapid growth this season it will be very soft and tender, and more easily injured by being roughly trod upon. I would, therefore, be inclined to recommend that shoes should not be worn by the weeders, and would also advise that the weeding should not be done when raining—when the plant is wet, or the ground wet. The reason for this caution is, if tramped into the soft ground under these circumstances, it will be, to some extent, so bedded in the soil, that part of the flax would scarcely rise again. If it can be managed wait till the surface of the ground is what is termed "skinned," before going on the flax to weed it. It must be carefully watched, as the growth is at present so rapid it might soon get too long to weed with safety. I take this opportunity to direct the attention of those farmers who have not already prepared their steeping-dams, that no time should be lost after the spring labour is over, setting about this necessary work, and selecting for this purpose the warmest and most sheltered corner of the farm, and, if possible, choosing a clay bottom. When practicable, I would recommend the dams to be filled with rain-water. Any care and labour expended preparing for the very important operation of retting will be amply repaid.

The cattle disease is raging in Ohio. The Lafayette Courier says that the cattle disease is daily becoming more alarming in the vicinity of Springfield. Seventy-five head have died in that city in twenty-four hours. Within a day or two it has spread all over the country, and is producing serious losses among the large herds being fed for the market.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

THE fiftieth annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal, was held at Montreal on Monday. The following report of the Directors was submitted:—

REPORT

Of the Directors to the Shareholders at their Fiftieth Annual General Meeting, held on the 1st of June, 1868.

The Directors have much satisfaction in presenting to the Shareholders the 50th Annual Report, accompanied by a statement of the result of the business of the year ending 30th April.

The balance at the credit of profit and loss account on the 30th of April, 1867, amounts to.....\$ 19,338 57
Profits for the year ending 30th April, 1868, after deducting charges of management and providing for bad and doubtful debts.....902,410 43

From which has been taken:
Dividend 5 per cent. paid Dec. 1867.....300,000 00
Dividend 5 per cent. payable June, 1868.....300,000 00
Addition to the "Rest".....250,000 00

Leaving a balance of \$71,743, carried forward at the credit of Profit and Loss Account for the current year.

This result has been obtained after providing the full amount of all debts regarded either as bad or doubtful.

The addition of \$250,000 to the "Rest," increases the balance of that account to \$1,500,000.

The directors believe they may fairly congratulate the shareholders upon the satisfactory condition of the Bank's affairs at the termination of its fiftieth year of existence.

T. B. ANDERSON,
President,

CITY BANK ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Institution was held on Monday, the 1st of June, at the Banking House, Place d'Armes.

The President, William Workman, Esq., took the chair at noon, and after explaining the sundry statements on the table, he then read to the meeting the following

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The period named in the charter for holding annual meetings of shareholders have again returned, it is my duty on behalf of the Board to submit for your inspection the proper statements of the affairs of the Bank, in accordance with the provisions of the charter.

These statements you will now find on the table. A synopsis from them shows the following results of the year's business just closed:

The balance at the credit of the Reserve Fund at our last annual meeting was.....\$111,029 19
The net profits of the year, after deducting working expenses have been.....119,747 98

From which deduct two dividends of four per cent. paid during the year.....96,000 00

Balance remaining at credit of the Reserve Fund.....\$134,777 17

The business of the Bank during the past year has been regular and free from losses or calamities. Our circulation, notwithstanding the large issue of Government notes, has still kept steadily out. Our deposits have improved, and as compared with the same period last year, show an increase of \$204,319.

The policy of contracting business at our agencies, and getting in and winding up all outstanding affairs is still steadily being pursued, as past experience has shown that a safer and more remunerative business can be done at the Head Office here than at any of the outposts.

The near approach of the period at which our present charter expires, renders it necessary to apply for a renewal, and this Bank, in common with other Banking Institutions of the country, deemed it proper to give the legal notice required by law for an intended application to the Legislature for a renewal of our Charter.

As the whole question of Banking, however, is now receiving particular attention at the hands of the Legislature, with a view to some general system for the whole Dominion, nothing definite as to renewals of charters has yet been done, as it is quite clear that special legislation upon that subject would not be entertained in the face of a seemingly foregone conclusion to engraft upon the country a new system of Banking in connection with Government issue. Much evidence in the form of answers to interrogatories has been taken by the Legislature upon this subject, the great body of which is evidently adverse to the policy which the government seem desirous of adopting, and in favour of the continuance of the present system of Banking, so long and so successfully conducted in the country.

There are certain branches of the public service which, from their very nature, Government must administer, such as the Army and Navy, Post Office, &c., but even these suffer largely from Government superintendence.

The monied interest of a country is a most important one, and to place it either directly or indirectly under Government control would be a most dangerous and