

exception of a short time during the spring freshets, the coal has to be scowed a distance of a mile and a quarter to the Lake.

The price of the coal at the "bank" varies according to the quality, the usual price of the best unscreened being from sixteen to eighteen shillings per chaldron, subject, however, to a Government duty of one shilling, and sometimes two shillings. The necessity of so often handling the coal tends to break it up, and thereby greatly lessens its value. It is thought by persons well acquainted with the stream, that the small portion of it between the Lake and the bank, which requires dredging, could be rendered navigable and a wharf be built, for about £500 or £600. If this were done, vessels could proceed to the bank and load in one day, instead of in four, as now required. A saving of one shilling on the freight would thereby be effected, and the value of the coal itself would be enhanced by saving, to a considerable extent, the loss by breakage.

The locality, however, is not altogether a promising one, and unless a thicker bed should be discovered, which is not probable, mining operations cannot be carried on very successfully. The coal is of the "eaking" variety, igniting readily, but requiring frequent stirring for complete combustion. One of the principal objections to its use is the presence of pyrites, which in some portions is very abundant. For further information concerning this locality, see Johnston's Report, page 42.

#### LIMESTONE, GYPSUM, GRAPHITE, &c.

Next to coal, limestone and gypsum are of the highest importance, but are two well known to require extended notice here. I have already alluded to the immense beds of the latter, which characterise much of the red sandstone district of the Tobique River, in the vicinity of the Wapskahegan and Plaster Island. Of other localities, one of the finest and most productive is the vicinity of Hillsborough, in Albert County, where the very pure and beautiful variety, termed alabaster, is extensively quarried and calcined. It occurs also at Sussex, and at Cape Maranguin, in Westmorland. Limestone is too common to require notice. In the limestone district of Restigouche, at Belledune, a beautiful crystallised variety (termed Iceland spar,) occurs, and is of the best quality for optical purposes.

*Heavy Spar* or *Barytes*, (*sulphate of baryta*), is quite commonly associated with metallic ores. When abundant, it is valuable for the purpose of admixture with white lead, and is sometimes employed alone. The only locality known to me, where the quantity is likely to prove large, is the L'Etang Island, where it must necessarily be removed in the mining for lead, which has been undertaken in that district. Limestone is also abundant in that vicinity, and the three might be profitably worked together.

*Pyrites* or *disulphuret of iron*, (the *nundie* of the miners,) is a very important mineral production, and none is more common in the Province. Under certain circumstances, its value cannot be over-estimated. From it are prepared, by very simple processes, some of the most important chemicals