
Extract from Evidence of LOUIS BARBEAU, of St. Francis, C. E.

Mining is carried on in winter, as well as in summer, and, indeed better, in the former, the Government Inspector ought to be on the Gilbert in winter as well as in summer. There is a certain number working on the Gilbert now, and I think the number will increase every winter, as the results of this winter's operations will give encouragement. It is much easier to mine in winter when you are not troubled with the rain, or water coming in, and can work every day more comfortable, than in the other season, men can work continually, day and night; as they have to use candle light, in both times; and the hours working make no difference. I took a lot a hundred feet square, on the Gilbert, with the Poulins, the partnership numbering four, and after an outlay of twenty-five dollars for my share, I obtained as the result, of the working of the mine four hundred dollars; my portion of the property. Parties continually sell gold on the spot, and I have sold mine generally for eighteen dollars an ounce. I live quite close to the Devil's Rapids, in the parish of St. François, and know the vein of quartz found there, and mentioned by other witnesses. I saw a piece of quartz taken therefrom containing as much gold as the quartz. I saw one piece of quartz taken out, and after being assayed, it produced fifteen dollars in gold, and thirty-two dollars in silver. There was no visible gold in it though it assayed fifteen dollars.

In answer to Mr. Taschereau—

The DeLery letters patent, have been the means of attracting parties to the Chaudière country, and of the discovery of the gold mines there, to the benefit of the country.

Extract from the evidence of JOHN O'FARRELL, Esquire, Advocate, Quebec.

What in your opinion is a floatable river?

If by a floatable river is meant the *Rivière Flottable* of the French writers, I am of opinion that a river to be *flottable* must be susceptible of floating at all seasons, at the point in reference, to which the question arises, and from thence down to the sea, for such craft as the Bateaux, which navigated the Seine at Paris, prior to the conquest.

Has there been any legal decision, settling the points in Lower Canada, as to the rights of riparian proprietors.

There have been such decisions, the highest is that of the Seigniorial Court, declaring that the proprietors of the River Banks, are also proprietors of the non-navigable and non floatable rivers, and of the underlying beds, of such rivers, fronting on their properties. Another solemn decision on the point is to be found reported in Vol. 10 L. C., Meports p. 294, where the Jacques Cartier, a powerful River, is declared to be non navigable and *non floatable*. (See page 13.)
