

described, and with the other ores on the East River of Pictou possessed by the same proprietors. From the Report of Mr. Andrews on the second geological district of Ohio, it would appear that similar beds, though on a smaller scale, occur in the Lower Carboniferous series of that State. In Nova Scotia this bed is at present altogether unique.

Clay Ironstones occur in many parts of the Nova Scotia coal-field. In the workings of the main seam of the Albion Mines, Pictou, considerable quantities of nodular black ironstone are extracted, and will, no doubt, be utilized. In the beds under the main seam there are also clays rich in ironstone concretions. Beds with ironstone balls also occur in the measures north of the New Glasgow conglomerate, and one of these is remarkable for the fact that the nodules were found by Dr. Harrington to contain nuclei of Blende, a mineral otherwise unknown in the carboniferous of Nova Scotia. No attention has yet been given to these ores as sources of iron, but it may be anticipated that a demand for them will arise in connection with the richer ores in the older formations.

II. VEINS OF IRON ORE.

(1) *Great Specular Iron Veins of the Silurian Slates and Quartzites.*

In a paper on the metamorphic and metalliferous rocks of Eastern Nova Scotia in 1848,* I mentioned the fact that the inland series of metamorphic rocks (bounding the coast series now known as the gold-bearing series) and believed to be of Upper or Middle Silurian age, abound in veins of specular iron, associated with spathic iron and ferruginous dolomite, and occasionally with metallic sulphides, and I described some of these deposits. In the country eastward of Lochaber Lake, where this same formation occurs, not only are numerous small veins of specular iron and carbonate of iron found in it, but a rich vein of Copper Pyrites, noticed in "*Acadian Geology*," has recently been opened up and found to be very valuable.

In most parts of the region these iron veins, though very numerous, are of trifling thickness; but in two localities they are known to attain to gigantic dimensions, rendering them of great economic importance.

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