

A blasting operation of unusual magnitude was conducted at the Pwllpant quarries, Caerphilly, Wales, on the 7th instant. A charge consisting of 16 cwt. of gunpowder was deposited in a hole 50 feet deep. The powder was ignited, and after a lapse of twenty minutes an explosion occurred which displaced an immense head of rock. In rolling down the great height, from the top to the bottom of the quarry, the rock was broken into pieces varying in weight from half a ton to five tons. The quantity of rock brought down by the blast is estimated at 10,000 tons.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Dominion Phosphate and Mining Co. was held at the office of the Company, 22 St. John Street, Montreal, on the tenth instant.

From what we can gather, the report of the Directors was of a satisfactory character. The expenditure hitherto has been made less with the view to extract large quantities of phosphate than to develop the mines and place them in such a condition that they can be worked henceforward economically and scientifically. This condition has now been attained, and the ore is now being extracted in large quantities from both mines, with the prospect of remunerating the shareholders amply for past delay. The purchase by the Company of the mine now known as the "Washington" is likely from present appearances to prove a most lucrative investment. Not only is the ore in great abundance, but the quality is of the highest standard. Altogether the prospects of the Company are very flattering.

THE PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY.

Each month brings fresh evidence of the rapid increase to the phosphate mining industry in the County of Ottawa. On the fourth of the present month, as will be seen by reference to another column, letters patent issued incorporating the "Lièvre Land and Phosphate Company," an organization whose operations will be watched with interest. The land owned by this Company is situated, for the most part, in the Township of Portland West and Templeton, in Ottawa County, and upon which some mining and a great deal of prospecting has already been done with encouraging results. In the Township of Bowman important discoveries have been made since the spring,

proving the existence of extensive deposits of apatite in this township. In the absence of railway communication, however, transportation from these deposits will be more expensive than from the mines in the district that are at present in operation, and yet a careful estimate of the cost shows that if the mineral can be cheaply mined there would remain a handsome margin of profit to the miner after defraying the cost of transportation from this isolated section, even at the present comparatively low value of phosphate.

The Dominion Phosphate Company held its annual meeting in Montreal on the 10th inst., and the directors' report to the shareholders was received with much satisfaction. Work on this Company's properties is progressing with most favourable results, and the quantity of phosphate that is being raised is daily increasing.

Mr. Allan's *Little Rapids* mine is yielding a quantity of excellent mineral. In the main shaft they are stoping in solid mineral at two levels, and each day's work adds to the body of phosphate in sight. This mine is capable of yielding a large annual output, and mining operations are being carefully conducted.

At the *High Rock*, the Union Phosphate Company's mines, and the *Emerald*, no change has been reported during the month. They are producing immense quantities of phosphate, and are continually increasing the facilities at the mines for mining and handling the output. The mines in Templeton and Wakefield are being steadily and profitably worked.

Phosphate Quotations.

Our London quotations have not varied since last month, and it is now thought that the present price for Canadian phosphate will rule for this season's shipments. 1s. 1d. is still quoted for 75 per cent., with a fifth of a penny rise, and it is confidently predicted by those who are familiar with the English market that miners will receive much better value for next season's output.

FREIGHTS.

For some weeks past very little tonnage from Montreal has been offered at rates to suit phosphate shippers. Six to ten shillings have been the prevailing rates, which is quite double what was paid earlier in the season, and as the principal producers availed themselves largely of the cheap spring freight they can now afford to carry their balance and await a drop from present rates when the autumn fleet will be going out.

Another Company Incorporated

To Operate in the Lièvre Phosphate Region.

Under the "Canada Joint Stock Companies Act, 1877," letters patent have issued, bearing date the 4th July, 1884, incorporating Walter Richard Elmenhorst, John H. R. Molson, Robert C. Adams, James P. Cleghorn and William Costigan, of Montreal; Charles H. Trask, of New York; Amos W. Stetson, A. Forbes Freeman, John C. Haynes, and George W. Heard, of the City of Boston, for the purpose of mining, extracting, working, selling and shipping phosphates and other minerals in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, with power to purchase, acquire, retain, mine and dispose of lands and property yielding such minerals, and with power to acquire, construct and operate all manufactories, mills for grinding or otherwise treating such minerals, and generally such other works and undertakings as may be necessary or expedient for the mining, selling and transportation by land and water of such minerals, by the name of "THE LIEVRE RIVER LAND AND PHOSPHATE COMPANY (LIMITED)," with a total capital stock of seventy-five thousand dollars, divided into seven hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars.

Capt. R. C. Adams, of Montreal, having, during the past few years, acquired extensive areas of well selected phosphate lands in the neighborhood of Perth, Ontario, and in the Rivière du Lièvre district, Quebec, thought it expedient to organize a company for the purpose of developing his locations on an extensive plan, and with this object in view, he issued a prospectus some months ago; the incorporation of the Lièvre River Land and Phosphate Company has been the result. Capt. Adams is well and favourably known to the phosphate dealers in Canada and abroad; he has had many years of useful experience in mining phosphate in this country, on his own account, and, in his capacity of a shipping broker in Montreal, has enjoyed the benefit of being able to forward the output of his mines free of commissions on this side of the Atlantic. These are no insignificant advantages for a company to possess at the outset, and, according to the prospectus, Capt. Adams, who will, in all probability, be the managing director, agrees to devote his undivided attention to the company's affairs, and mining operations, as well as the handling of the output, will, therefore, be conducted under a system of economy and good management. The Lièvre River Land and Phosphate Company has our best wishes for a successful career.

The gold and silver product of California in 1883 is valued at \$15,752,750.

VILLENEUVE MICA MINE.

During the past month a force of miners have been engaged on this property, and the mine is developing into one of great extent—the crystals of mica are increasing in size as greater depth is reached and are more free from fracture—in fact the proportion of waste in the output up to the present time is comparatively small. Those who have had experience in mining this mineral are aware that but a small per centage of what is mined is capable of producing sheets of merchantable size. At this mine in Villeneuve, however, the crystals appear to lie in a less distorted form than elsewhere, and to be more free from twists and other damaging features. A large quantity of excellent mica has already been mined, most of which has been cut into sheets, ready for market, and when the mine has been further developed it will be capable of producing sufficient to supply a large demand.

Gold Mining in Beauce.

Messrs. Allan & Humphrey are now working in pay gravel at a depth of 150 feet in their mine near Slate Creek. Pan washings from the dump, taken out about six feet above bed rock, have proved very rich in fine gold, and the gravel below this no doubt carries coarser gold in large quantities, many nuggets, weighing an ounce and over, have already been found. Water for sluicing purposes is being brought from Slate Creek, about three-quarters of a mile, past the mouth of the shaft; sluices are in course of erection, and washing will be begun at an early date, the returns of which will be likely to astonish those who have had no faith in profitable mining in this section of country. The old river bed, where this shaft has been sunk, is a very large one, and the pay gravel will be proportionately abundant. In our next issue we hope to be able to give our readers the result of the first month's wash-up, and we venture to predict such rich returns as will induce thousands of miners to flock to the Beauce district and develop what is likely to prove one of the richest gold fields in America. Having seen the result of one day's pan-washing, we know whereof we speak.

According to the statement of Mr. Hyter, Government statist of Victoria, the total yield of gold in all the Australasian colonies, since its discovery in 1851, up to 1881 inclusive, has reached a value of \$1,446,247,255. Of this total Victoria, the smallest of the Australian colonies, has contributed \$1,010,111,340.