

stopes are usually started direct from the shafts and carried underhand, and the hoisting done from the shaft nearest the ground being worked. This system works well enough in shallow mines and good ground, but it is being abandoned for more regular and systematic methods of development.

Mining costs vary with the conditions of each vein, but it may be asserted that the expenses of mining, pumping and hoisting are lower than in any similar class of works elsewhere. The compact nature of the rocks renders the workings, when proper precautions are taken to exclude surface waters, so dry as to give very small pumping costs.

The quartz passes from the mine without dressing, etc., to the mill which is usually driven by steam. The mills are almost invariably stampers, and vary in size from five to thirty-five stamps. The pattern of the mills is based on the best United States models, with improvements suggested by local experience. As the quartz carries its precious burden, as coarse and free gold, amalgamation is carried on in the mortar and on plates. The gold bullion is of good quality, carrying little silver, and averages, I believe, about \$19.25 at the mint.

The production of gold during the year 1892 was in round numbers about 20,000 ounces, from a dozen localities. The business, although small is, when pursued methodically, remunerative, and is capable of unlimited extension, as there are numerous anticlinals unworked and many more to be discovered in unexplored districts. The mines are all within easy reach of roads, and of the harbors along the coast, and aid is furnished by the Provincial Government in opening roads to new mines. The Nova Scotians make excellent miners, and prefer this work to almost any other occupation.

#### GYPSUM.

Few countries show such wide-spread and valuable deposits of gypsum as Nova Scotia. Here the mineral, as soft and hard gypsum, occurs with limestone, in measures of lower carboniferous age, in immense beds frequently running for miles in white cliffs. Owing to facilities for shipment, the greatest development of gypsum mining has been effected in the vicinity of Windsor, in Hants County. The annual export from this district is about 150,000 tons, valued at about one dollar a ton. The rock is taken from open quarries, trammed to the vessels, and shipped to the United States, principally for agricultural