

occur beneath. The same applies to agricultural grants. Mining licenses only which are held for one year and can be renewed twice for a similar period, on payment of an extra fee, are exclusive as regards minerals during their continuance. They are limited to one square mile of area. A mining lease or grant, with fifty acres of surface free for mining plant and erections, &c., can be obtained upon payment of a further fee and fulfilment of certain conditions as regards working and expenditure thereon, extending over a period of five years, but the owner can at any time during that period obtain his grant in fee on giving satisfactory proof of having complied with the conditions and having expended the required sum in working the mine &c.

The accompanying tabulated statement of minerals taken from the Customs' returns will, I have no doubt, prove of interest in connection with this paper. These returns are not, however, by any means as complete as they might have been, and both the quantity of ore shipped and value thereof are much underestimated. Even for last year I find that while but 19,150 tons of pyrites are set down in the table of exports, in reality some 30,000 tons were shipped from the Pilley's Island mine. Again, between 1865 and 1867 but 38½ tons of copper are returned as exported. I learn from other sources that in reality it amounted to 6,580 tons. There is no return at all for 1868, yet several large cargoes of copper were shipped during that year from Tilt Cove.