

men employed at any one time was 1,156 on 127 areas or claims, and the smallest number 715 men. That the yield of gold was 13,991 oz. of the value of \$279,820. The maximum yield per ton was 65 oz. the lowest 4 dwts. 15 grs. During the quarter ended 31st Dec. last, 4,848 tons of quartz had been raised, yielding 4,178 oz. gold, and giving an average of 18 dwts. 1 gr. per ton. The maximum yield in Australia in 1860, was 200 oz. and the lowest under 2 dwts. per ton ; the average being as low as 9 dwts. 16 grs. We have already noted that St. John del Rey mine gave an equal yield of 9 dwts. 9 grs. per ton.

The surface of the gold field is covered with stones and pebbles and boulders of whin of all hues from white to blue, slaty rocks and large boulders of gray granite with mica. Under those is soil, and undulated hard whin, interspersed with slaty rocks of various degrees of hardness and in some instances resembling sandstone. The gangue of quartz varies in size from a thread to four feet in thickness ; it may be white or stained with iron, or it may be blue as in the Hewitt lead. It may be imbedded in slate or hard whinstone. The gold may be found in visible quantities called sights, or may be invisible and equally diffused—it may not be confined to the gangue of quartz, but may be diffused invisibly through the slate or whin in which it is imbedded—it may also be found in the “ dirt ” or soil superimposed and adjoining.

The experience of the past year according to generally expressed opinion, has shewn, that as a general rule the lode increases in richness as in depth. And though the Nova Scotian gold fields have not excited the interest which followed the discoveries in Australia and California, the progress made during the past year, warrants the belief that they will go