

Prof. Walcott says :

“Newfoundland Possesses one of the Great Roofing Slate Deposits of the World.”

In a recent report, Professor G. B. Walcott, of Washington, Director of the Smithsonian Institute, says :

“The whole of the Peninsula of Avalon belongs to the Cambrian formation. Through it occur numerous veins of the finest roofing slate, enough to supply half the world with this commodity. So long as the Welsh slate quarries were highly productive these slate deposits in Newfoundland remained unnoticed and unknown, but with the decline in the output of the Welsh slate quarries attention has been drawn to the Newfoundland deposits, and

they will become a valuable source of wealth to the Country.

I examined a deposit of purple and green roofing slate which occurs on Random Sound, on the West side of Trinity Bay. In my opinion this is one of the great roofing slate deposits of the world, comparable with that of North Wales, and the American deposits at Newark and Rutland County, Vermont.”

As the properties of the Newfoundland Slate Quarries, Limited, are in this same district of which Prof. Walcott writes as an independent authority, his remarks are extremely interesting.

What an Eminent Firm of Analytical Chemists have to say about Newfoundland Slates.

Messrs. Stanger and Blount, of the Chemical Laboratory and Testing Works, Westminster, S.W., write as follows :

“We have made an examination of the samples of Newfoundland Slates with a view of determining their quality as roofing material. For this purpose we have analysed them and subjected them to various other tests. The samples are similar in composition and closely resemble slates of known excellence, such as those of Penrhyn,

A special search was made for the presence of pyrites, but no trace was found either in the green or in the purple.

The two samples were tested for their absorption of water, both in their natural condition, and after their soluble constituents had been removed by treatment with hydrochloric acid. The results obtained were satisfactory. The natural porosity of both samples was very small, and even when all those constituents which become soluble under a somewhat severe extraction have been removed, the slate thus extracted is still but