

mon and abundant minerals, which, while not employed as a source of obtaining metals, are yet of considerable value for other economic purposes.

Of such minerals, coal, of course, is the most useful and the most important. At the same time, its occurrence is better known in the Province, than that of the metallic ores, and requires much less consideration. It will be unnecessary, therefore, for me to dwell upon its distribution, especially as nearly all which can be said upon the subject, has already been included in the Reports of the Provincial Geologist, and of my predecessor, Dr. Robb. My purpose being more particularly to search for metallic ores, I purposely avoided the great central coal field of the Province, merely passing over a portion in the eastern part of Albert County. Some remarks upon the remarkable localities in that section have already been given. I have only to add, that oil has recently been discovered on a slip of land between the Memramcook and the Petitcodiac, in Dorchester. It is found floating upon the surface of a stream, where, upon exposure to the air, it hardens into a sort of pitch. I believe it is intended to make some borings in the vicinity, to ascertain, if possible, the existence of oil-wells. It might be profitable to undertake similar experiments in other parts of the Province, especially where the substance termed *maltha* is found in quantity.

For facts relating to the whole subject of the distribution of coal in the Province, see *Dr. Robb's Letter in Johnston's Agricultural Report*, pages 38—48.

Since writing the above, I have been furnished, through the kindness of Mr. C. W. Wetmore, with the following particulars in regard to the coal deposits of the Grand Lake region.

During the year 1863, as far as can be ascertained, the amount of coal raised was about three thousand chaldrons. The coal is found in a bed of from fourteen to twenty inches thickness, outcropping at many points over an area of several miles. The bed is found at depths varying from six to thirty feet below the surface. The mining operations have for some years been confined chiefly to the Newcastle Stream, but a little coal has also been removed near the mouth of the Little River, and of late on the Salmon River. The bed at the latter locality is said to be of the same thickness as that at Newcastle.

Where the coal is within six or eight feet of the surface, the miners remove it by "*stripping*," but when the earth is deeper, and there is sufficient inclination to carry off the water, adits are driven, three or four feet in height by seven in width, which sometimes attain a length of several hundred feet. From these main levels, lesser ones are driven at right angles on either side.

There are numerous parties engaged in mining, and no very extensive operations have yet been undertaken. The miners are chiefly old country people. The plan usually adopted by the landholder and miner is the following. The landholder opens the main level and drains at his own expense, and hauls the coal to "the bank," (or first place of shipment,) when it is equally divided between the miner and himself. This bank is at a distance of from four to six miles from the Newcastle mines, and from here, with the