

I issued 164 Private Lands Gold Licences and two Mill Licences during the year, amounting to the sum of \$272.

10th April, 1868.—Alluvial mining was actively carried on, during the quarter ending the 31st March, 1868, on lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the De Lery Concession of the Seigniorie Rigaud Vaudreuil. Owing to the mild weather and heavy thaws which took place towards the latter end of March, and the consequent excessive flow of water in some of the shafts, mining was discontinued therein, and will not be resumed until after the spring thaws—probably about the end of the present month of April. Mining was confined during the quarter principally to hoisting the pay-dirt out of the shafts and placing it on the surface for the better convenience of sluicing in the spring, whereby the costly and inefficient method of washing in the shafts by rockers—necessary in winter, was in great measure avoided, claim holders who had the means to work their shafts did not wash at all and those who washed, did so merely to obtain sufficient gold to pay their laborers. The results of these washings have been in most cases satisfactory and encouraging, and in some instances rich and highly remunerative. In a shaft sunk on lot 15, the owners only washed for about three or four hours once, and sometimes, twice, a week, by means of a common rocker at the bottom of the shaft, and even by this expensive inconvenient and imperfect mode of washing; they obtained from 7 to 13 ounces of gold each washing. The yield of gold obtained from this shaft alone during the quarter is 200 oz. 8 dwts. 12 grs.

The total yield from all the various shafts is as follows:—

	oz.	dwt.	grs.
January,.....	64	1	4
February.....	181	16	8
March,.....	57	3	11

Making a total for the quarter of 303 oz. 0 dwt. 23 grs. An immense quantity of wash dirt has been hoisted from the various shafts, which will be washed as soon as the spring thaws permit, which is expected to be about the latter end of April, from which a large yield of gold and rich results are confidently anticipated. About 150 men have been employed in mining, and in preliminary mining labor, such as felling and drawing timber for timbering the shafts, making sluice boxes, &c. Preparations are in progress for carrying on the mining operations on an extensive scale during the present year. A Mr. Nash, and other American gentlemen associated with him, who are lessees of large mining claims from the De Lery Gold Mining Company, and the owners of two of the best paying shafts that are worked here, are making preparation for extending their operations upon an enlarged scale. A Mr. Lockwood, representing an English company has leased a large mining claim from the De Lery Gold Mining Company, and intends to work the same upon an extensive basis. Capt. Smith, of New York, has erected a steam pump on his shaft with a view to facilitate and expedite his mining work, and supersede the necessity of manual labor in emptying and keeping the water out of his shaft. A number of experienced miners intend in the spring to prospect along the banks of Famine River, in the township of Watford, and good results are expected from their skill and experience in mining.

Little was done during the quarter, in quartz mining.

Specimens of quartz were collected from some of the uncapped veins in the Seigniorie and forwarded to New York for assay, but with what result I have not yet learnt.

A Company has been formed, composed of Quebec gentlemen, who intend to import a portable "aratra" for the purpose of testing the various quartz veins which have been opened in the Seigniorie. The De Lery Gold Mining Company, I am informed, will give a new impetus to both quartz and alluvial mining enterprise in the Seig-

niory, by the favorable terms which, I believe, it has determined to adopt with regard to capitalists and miners for the development of the rich auriferous deposits which the Seigniorie undoubtedly contains. I issued 111 licenses during the quarter.

1st July.—Alluvial mining has steadily progressed in this division during the quarter ending on the 30th June.

In the Seigniorie of Rigaud Vaudreuil several additional shafts have been sunk on lots 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the De Lery Concession, and on lot 8 in the St. Charles Concession. In most of these new shafts the bed-rock or bottom has not yet been reached, owing to excess of water. To obviate this difficulty steam-pumps have been imported from England and the United States, four of which are now in the course of erection, by means of which it is expected the shafts will be speedily emptied, and the bed-rock reached. An English Company called the Canada and North West Land and Mining Company, is carrying on extensive mining operations in this Seigniorie, and has sunk several of the new shafts above adverted to. The De Lery Gold Mining Company has recently let large mining claims in different localities, on the 1st Range N. W. of the Seigniorie, which are to be prospected and worked during the present season. The amount of gold obtained during the quarter, is 452 oz. 12 dwts. 7 grains. The mint value of this gold varies from \$17.80 to \$18.05 per ounce; thus making in round figures the sum of \$8,100. A number of experienced miners, taking advantage of the recent dry weather have gone off prospecting in Forsyth, Shenely, Liniers, and other places in the Division, and hopes are entertained that they will succeed in finding rich locations.

I have issued 293 licenses during the quarter, amounting to \$293.

14th October.—Alluvial mining was not so profitable during the quarter ending on the 30th September, as during the preceding quarter. A number of the shafts adverted to in my last report particularly those on lots 12, 13 and 14 in the De Lery Concession of the Seigniorie Rigaud Vaudreuil were abandoned, some owing to excess of water, and there being no means on the spot to combat against it, others owing to their comparatively barren appearance. The weather, too, during the quarter, was unfavorable to mining operations,—the long continued drought rendered sluicing, and even rocking almost impossible, and when the rain did set in, during the month just ended, there was too much of it to enable the miners to reach the bottom of most of the shafts then opened, without expensive appliances which were not then at hand. On lots, 15, 16 and 17, mining was carried on more vigorously and profitably, though in some instances the results obtained although comparatively good, fell short of the outlay, owing to the heavy expenses and costly appliances used. The North West Land and Mining Company has an engine in operation on lot 15, connected with a pump, for bailing the water out of the shaft, which was imported from England at the cost of \$6,000. There are also two smaller engines and pumps in operation on other shafts. The amount of gold taken out during the quarter is 336 oz. 17 dwts. 12 grs. In quartz mining, operations have been more actively and extensively carried on during the quarter, than at any previous period. Several companies are at work getting out quartz, from different veins in the Seigniorie, and are having it carted to the mill of the De Lery Company to be crushed and tested. This mill has been in full operation for some weeks past, under the superintendence of a mining engineer employed by the De Lery Company, and the results are looked forward to with confident assurance of good success. Specimens of all these veins have been treated theoretically, and yielded rich results—in one case amounting to the rate of \$133 to the ton, while all have shown traces of gold.

I issued 303 licenses during the quarter, amounting to \$303.

9th January, 1869.—Alluvial mining was carried on in the Seigniorie Rigaud Vaudreuil, on lots 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 during quarter ending on the 31st December, 1868, with comparatively good results, although mining was carried on less actively than during the preceding quarter, owing to the great depth of some of the shafts, which, in some cases, are from 60 to 75 feet beneath the surface, thereby necessitating expensive machinery, consisting of steam engines with pumps attached thereto, for the purpose of hoisting the water and pay-dirt therefrom. Some of these shafts barely paid expenses, while others yielded rich results.

In other parts of the Seigniorie, at the St. George and Jersey Point, a considerable amount of prospecting was carried on with variable results. The amount of gold taken out during the quarter is 324 oz. 16 dwts. 22 grs. In quartz mining a good deal of work was done, and a considerable quantity of ore extracted from several of the veins in the Seigniorie. A few tons of ore from some of these veins were passed through the De Lery Company's Crushing Mill and gave more or less good traces of gold. This mill has been temporarily closed.

I issued 154 private licenses, and two monthly mill licenses up to the 21st December.

PROXIES.

Nothing but abuses arise, as a general thing, from the use of proxies. This does not necessarily follow, but, as we say, generally. Proxies are for the most part obtained for selfish, and often for vile purposes, and the worst species of tyranny, and the foulest prostitution of authority are the result of their misuse. The bold robberies, and high-handed swindling practiced in Wall street are accomplished by proxies. The rich villains whose names appear daily in the daily papers, have amassed their wealth by the most gigantic species of fraud wrought by the abuse of proxies. Stockholders have been robbed, scoundrels enriched, and the public sense outraged by the adroit manipulations of proxies. They are the means of perpetuating wrong, if wrong exists, and the means of developing wrong, if bad men are so disposed. Any set of officers can make themselves a self-perpetuating oligarchy, by voting themselves in through the use of proxies. There is no limit to the abuse, provided proxies can be secured; and it is a most shameful state of things that they can be secured, usually by the mere asking, and always for pay. One man can often clandestinely secure proxies enough to carry in his own person the determination of offices for an entire corporation. He can come in, and to the astonishment of all honest persons, eject the ruling powers, constitute himself chief, and put his own hangers on in the subordinate places. This has been done often, and attempts of this sort are not unknown in life insurance annals. Some dissatisfied official may aspire to the Presidency, and reach it, too, by the vile use of proxies. Influential agents, with vast territories under control, may secure proxies enough to revolutionize any of our city companies. Power is attained in this way, and almost always in order to be abused. There is nothing more scandalous in the management of corporations than this system of proxies, which is now so common. It is an allurements to evil, doing, and offers a premium on the practice of dishonesty and fraud. It is of itself a revolutionary system. It carries rebellion in its face, as the flint carries fire.

Many an unworthy line of officers have made themselves secure for life in lucrative positions, because of the self-perpetuating principle inherent in proxies. Shrewd men can easily retain their places, because proxies are always easily obtained. And so long as the system is current and liable to be used by any one, officers can never feel secure against the machinations of evil-disposed persons, unless they are armed with the same sort of weapon as is employed by their adversaries. Hence