

CONCLUSION.

A table from the report of the Chief Commissioner of Mines, showing the returns of the gold mines of Nova Scotia for the year ending Sept. 30th, 1867, is given in the appendix to this report. In this table are given for each gold district the average daily labor employed, the number of mills with steam or water power, the number of tons of quartz crushed, the average yield of gold to the ton, the quantities of alluvial gold, the total amount of gold, and finally the annual return for each miner employed, the price of gold being estimated at \$18.50 the ounce, which, as we have seen, is considerably below the real value. A column giving the maximum yield per ton from each district has been omitted, inasmuch as it is deduced from the treatment of lots of ore of exceptional richness.

It is impossible to determine with precision the total amount of gold obtained from the mines of Nova Scotia since their discovery. The Department of Mines was not organized until 1862, and it was not until the following year that complete returns were obtained. From this it results that no accurate estimate can be given of the amounts of the amounts of gold obtained in 1860, 1861 and 1862, though they are supposed to have been not inconsiderable. The official returns for the last six years, based on the gold for which the royalty of three per cent. has been paid, are as follows:—

1862.....	7,275	ounces.
1863.....	14,001½	"
1864.....	20,023	"
1865.....	25,454½	"
1866.....	25,204½	"
1867.....	27,583	"
Total.....	\$119,541½	ounces.

The value of the above amount of gold, at the Government price of \$18.50 the ounce, is \$2,211,508; but at \$20, which is about the worth of the Nova Scotia gold, it amounts to \$2,390,081. If to this we add the unreported gold obtained in the first two or three years, we may conclude that the whole product has been equal in round numbers to about two and a half millions of dollars. This amount is doubtless small when compared with the production of regions like California and Australia, where the yield of some single mines surpasses the whole annual production of Nova Scotia. As we have seen in a note to page 18, the quartz mines of Victoria employed, in 1866, 14,878 miners, and yielded 521,000 ounces of gold. The mean yield to the ton of quartz was, however, only 10 dwt. 16 gr., and the produce for each miner £117.5s. 7½d. or \$570.71, while for Nova Scotia these amounts were respectively 17 dwt. 23 gr. and \$765. In Victoria the whole amount of quartz crushed up to the close of 1866 was nearly 4,000,000 of tons, with an average yield of 11 dwt. 23 gr., while in Nova Scotia it has equalled not quite 100,000 tons, with an average yield of over 20 dwt. of gold to the ton. It is to be remarked that with improved systems of mining and working, both in Victoria and Nova Scotia, poorer materials may be wrought with profit, so that while the average product of gold per ton diminishes, the return for each miner increases. We have but to consult the table given below to see that the produce for each miner is proportionate not so much to the richness of the quartz as to the skill and economy of the management, which, within the last year has raised the production in Renfrew and Sherbrooke to such high figures. It may however be affirmed that the average yield of gold to the ton of rock, and also to each miner, is greater in Nova Scotia than in any other auriferous region known.

It may well excite surprise that so little mining has yet been done in Nova Scotia, where gold is known to be spread over an area of not less than 6,000 square miles, and where, notwithstanding the want of skill of the early adventurers, and the lack of capital, such remarkable results have already been obtained. The lodes of this region, which are very regular in structure, have been shewn to preserve their richness to depths of 200 and 300 feet, and from their geological relations there is every reason to believe will continue unchanged to the greatest attainable depths. To this it may be added that the price of labor is moderate, not exceeding \$1.25 a day; fuel, both wood and coal, cheap and abundant; the region healthful, and easily accessible from abroad. When all these things are