

Moved by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Hamilton—

“That the Secretary be requested to communicate with the Honorable the Provincial Secretary, asking him to inform the Government of the Province, that if they desire to purchase the Archæological and Mineralogical Museum of the late John Notman, Queen’s Printer, now in the Legislative Buildings, and which is being advertised for sale, the Canadian Institute will be happy to house it and take charge of it upon the same footing as the Museum of Indian Archæology, namely, that at convenient hours, the public shall have free admission. Also that the Canadian Institute is about to consider the propriety of enlarging its building in early spring to meet the demand for enlarged space for museum purposes, and will be happy to meet the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands to discuss the whole subject of a Museum of Minerals and of Natural History for the Province.”

The Rev. Philip Tocque, A.M., read a paper on “Newfoundland or Terra Primum Vista.” He gave a detailed account of the products and resources of Newfoundland, its timber and fisheries, and as to the minerals he said that on the western part of the country, at Codroy, St. George’s bay, Bay of Islands, and other places there are gypsum or plaster of Paris, coal, iron, copper, lead, gold, silver, nickel, petroleum, flagstones, soft sandstones, limestones, marble of every quality and colour, some masses of which are four and five hundred feet in height. Here are the elements of future greatness—the elements to set in motion agriculture, manufactures, steam engines, railroads, and architecture. Here is a coal field thirty-eight miles long, ten miles broad, and three feet thick, containing 54,720,000 chaldrons, or 1,425,000 chaldrons per mile. Mr. Murray, late geological surveyor, says of three other seams having an aggregate thickness of eight feet:—“A seam of coal one foot thick would give per square acre 1,500 tons, per square mile 960,000 tons; multiply by eight and the result would be 7,680,000 tons.” It is said this estimate equals the whole annual output from all the Cape Breton mines. This coal field is only eight miles from the sea, and twenty miles from St. George’s Harbour, supposed to be a continuation of the coal mines of Cape Breton. A short time ago Tilt Cove, Bett’s Cove, and Little Bay, on the northern part of the island, were shrouded in primeval silence; no sign of even a hamlet appeared in the horoscope of the future; but the elements of a mighty change were working, and now these places have grown into thriving villages. All appeared poverty on the surface, but glittering chambers of wealth were below.

Governor Hill, in his annual report to the Colonial Office in London, gives an interesting account of the rapid growth of these villages and of