

NEWFOUND-
LAND.
MINERAL
RESOURCES.

so that they may be brought to the knowledge of London capitalists.

6. In expressing this hope I am aware, though I regret it, that owing to the ease with which the ore can be obtained the working of the mine will not lead to the employment of any large amount of labour, employment which it is so desirable to obtain for this Colony; the mine now being worked by the Canadian company hardly employs the spare labour already existing on the island, but if it is worked by an English company that company may gradually extend its operations to other minerals in the Colony.

7. Any exports of ore from this Colony are at present handicapped with the duty which it has to meet on its importation into Canada, and I think also into the States.

8. Any communication on the subject of the mines which are in the market in Bell Island might be addressed to the Rev. Father Magrath, Manuels, Newfoundland.

I am, &c.

H. MURRAY.

Enclosure I in No. 1.

Geological Survey of Newfoundland,

St. John's, Newfoundland,

December 12, 1895.

SIR,

YOUR request for a special report upon the mineral characteristics, &c. of Bell Island in Conception Bay, necessitated a visit to that locality, and several days' close investigation of its structure. It is now over twenty-five years since an examination of the island was made, long before its iron deposits were considered to be of commercial value, although their existence was known as far back as the beginning of this century. Anspach in his history, published in 1819, mentions the fact of "an iron mine occurring at Back Cove, Bell Island."

The following report of the result of the recent examination will, I hope, meet the approval of the Government.

Great Bell Island forms the largest and most easterly of the group of three, viz:—Great and Little Bell Islands and Kelly's Island, which occupy a position in the Bay of from three to five miles off its southern shore. It is of an oblong form, six miles long by an average of two miles wide, thus giving a total superficial area of twelve square miles. The shores of the island are for the most part very abrupt, presenting mural cliffs all round, except at two points on the southern side of the island; Bell Island beach, and Lance Cove, where the principal settlements are located. The cliffs range from 100 to 300 feet in height, and the highest elevation on the island, inland, reaches 495 feet. The contour of the surface is comparatively level or rolling, consisting of low rounded parallel ridges with valleys between. They tend generally obliquely across the island, in an east by north and west by south direction, magnetic. Though much of the surface