

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINES OF THE OTTAWA REGION.

MR. JOHN STEWART.

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The mineral district of which Ottawa is the centre is a large one; including the western part of Quebec Province and the eastern part of the Province of Ontario. It is to this section especially that reference is made, although the following remarks apply to the whole of the provinces mentioned, and as regards the best interests of the miner, prospector or explorer, the saying "good and bad everywhere," may be put "bad and worse," and applied equally to them both.

The development of the mines has an important connection with the most complete knowledge of the minerals of only scientific interest; and this reason, and that of the injustice done to one section of the population, by those in power, are the apology offered for these remarks, which may appear to some to have too much of a technical bearing.

About two years ago, when some of these notes were made, there appeared in the newspapers of almost all parts of Canada, articles and correspondence under sundry headings, showing clearly that there is something materially wrong with the mining interest of these provinces as at present situated, that is, an individual ownership instead of Government holding the minerals for rental, or on lease.

Some writers attribute the lack of mineral development, and the stagnation of the whole industry (coal mining excepted) to the absence of a Bureau of Mining Statistics, or to a neglect on the part of the Geological Survey of Canada in not publishing reports of the extent of mining done each year. They saddle the Geological Survey with the total neglect of the mining interests, and find relief in considering it the "Scape Goat" in this case, and none try to arrive at a clear understanding of the position in which the mining interests of the provinces stand at the present time. Were statistics collected by the Survey they would tend to make more glaring the error in our laws as regards mining lands, give the number and acreage of our mining land monopolies, and show more clearly the error our Provincial Legislators have fallen into in selling the minerals with the surface soil to the