

ness of beds, analyses of different coals as well as shales and petroleum. The ground is taken that the productive measures of Nova Scotia belong to the same horizon in the geological sequence as those of England and the United States. The classification of them includes: coking coal, free-burning coal, cherry coal and Cannel coal—all of these belonging to the bituminous division. According to a recent despatch from Ottawa, the importation of coal into Canada during the fiscal year ended with June, was the largest ever known, amounting to close upon one million tons. Whether the soft coal of Nova Scotia or the anthracite being developed in New Brunswick can, in the more westerly provinces of the Dominion, replace the American article now so largely used, is a question for the future to determine.

The extent of the gold districts of Nova Scotia has been estimated at 3000 square miles. They extend from Canso in the east to Yarmouth in the west, not continuously, but the area which includes them is placed by Mr. Gilpin at 6,500 square miles. The fields comprise large belts of rocks, ordinarily termed granite, and extend in irregular curved bands. As to the age of these beds, our author appears to agree in placing them in the Cambrian age. The imperfect and ill-preserved fossils that have been formed amongst them do not sufficiently indicate their age. "The strata can not be traced into connection with any supposed counterparts on this continent. Their age can be approximated only by a systematic survey, which would require to be carried over the whole district in question." But "the survey would serve other most necessary purposes, commending it to all who are in any way connected with gold mining."

The iron ores of Nova Scotia form a broad band, extending over a great part of that rich province. There is a noteworthy variety of them, and they would seem to be much more valuable than has generally been supposed. The analyses here given show that a number are remarkably pure; the results already obtained at Londonderry as well as the unquestioned quality of the iron and steel produced at Londonderry are a fair indication of what may be expected from such deposits. In the words of the report:

When once iron-working operations are commenced, it will be found that many of our ores offer facilities for the manufacture of high grades of iron and steel which can be exported. There can be no doubt that the increasing advantages steamers offer for freighting will cause our ship-builders to consider if they can not build iron vessels here also. When it is considered that the value of the imports (into Canada) of iron, raw, partly and completely manufactured, was during the fiscal year 1877, \$10,400,000; 1878, \$9,215,000; and in 1879, \$7,916,846, it will be seen that an ample field is open for our iron-workers.

The iron ores of the province are as yet known only in isolated localities, the total extent of which can hardly be estimated. When, however, it is considered that the ore properties of the only two companies which have turned their attention to the subject cover 55 and 30 square miles without monopolizing their respective districts, the extent of the deposits will be understood. There being comparatively no demand for iron ores, but little search has been made. Should inquiries be raised, doubtless many new deposits would be found.

Valuable deposits of copper ore have been found in various parts of the province. They occur "in rocks of every geologic age met in descending order from the Triassic downwards," but in very few cases have they been tested, and no successful mining has been done, possibly because it has never been systematically gone about. Other minerals present themselves in no meagre quantity: gypsum, barytes, and manganese, for example, which are being successfully worked. In the chapter treating of "refractory minerals," the writer speaks of soapstone, fire and pottery clay, and plumbago, all to be found in the territory named. Marbles, ochres, and other earths, minerals for chemical uses, and minerals for building purposes are all mentioned in the 129 pages of this very interesting volume. A good authority, the *New York Mining Journal*, thus speaks of the possibilities of mining in Nova Scotia:

From our own knowledge, Nova Scotia presents a good and accessible field for the prospector and capitalist in mining; but we think the Nova Scotians themselves (who are proverbially a slow people) are largely to blame that their mineral wealth is not more fully developed. A much greater expenditure of money and time should be devoted to procure for the benefit of the province the advantages of a thorough and exhaustive geological survey.

#### THE FRENCH-CANADIAN CREDIT FONCIER.

The *Capitaliste* of Paris, a journal whose title bespeaks its character, recently contained an article on Canada, the French part of it especially, as a field for investment. The article though sufficiently discursive has special reference to the formation of a *Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien*. This financial organ is delighted at the re-establishment of monetary relations between France and its ancient colony, and as Canada is free to frame its tariff to its own liking, with the sole restriction that it does not discriminate against England, the writer sees nothing to prevent France resuming in Canada the commercial position which she lost through the fortunes of war more than a century ago. The writer who, it seems, visited Canada four years ago, has somehow got the notion that England pays little attention to the part of the country settled by the French. Several English banks are represented as having agencies in

the English part of the country, "while the French-Canadian is abandoned to himself." From this assumption—which, by the way, is inaccurate—the *Capitaliste* draws the conclusion that the resulting inequality of capital causes an observable difference in the development of the two parts of the country, and places French Canada in a position of relative inferiority, in spite of what the writer assumes to be the greater fertility of her soil, an assumption which of course all of us here know to be incorrect.

The *Capitaliste's* statement of the case may not be entirely accurate. That is of little consequence. What is important is the conclusion which it draws. Since the colonial regime no longer presses like a dead weight on Canada, and its people are at liberty to frame their own tariff, the Paris journalist is induced to ask "Why do not our banks establish agencies at Quebec, as English banks have established agencies at Montreal?" especially as it is assumed, "they are there able to make loans on the security of real estate at from seven to eight per cent.," on the guarantee of legislation said to be copied exactly after that of France. How is a market for French capital which, in the *Capitaliste's* opinion, ought not to be neglected. The writer evidently does not know that Canada is already liberally supplied with bank capital, to say nothing of the fact that loans on the security of real estate are best made through other agencies than those which banks offer.

This journal recommends the establishment by Frenchmen of business and financial houses at Quebec and in other important localities. The writer does not pretend to be able to estimate, even by the light of the visit of four years ago, to what extent Canada will offer a market for French capital, but he feels certain that there will be no difficulty in obtaining loans on the security of real estate. The way must be felt and precautions, necessary in all cases, taken. The large French population in Canada may be induced, the writer hopes, to take more French goods, and he sees no reason why the stream of emigration which so long flowed out from Normandy and Brittany, and which dried up at the conquest, should not break forth anew. In fine, and this is the cap-sheaf, why should French journals and books not find their way to Canada, to revive the somnolent intellects there and purify the French language of its Anglo-American solecisms? This question the writer in the *Capitaliste* had asked, in another form, when these solecisms were still ringing in his ear. It still remains without an answer. For ourselves we see no reason why, with French capital, the *Capitaliste* should not also be