

sands of Sable Island, in which gold has been found in appreciable quantities.

On the first discovery, some thousands of persons flocked to the diggings, and it was expected that in the following year an immense immigration would have taken place, but though a very large amount of gold in connexion with loose quartz, disintegrated from superficial boulders, was picked up, yet before the close of the season of 1861, the supply had become so small and uncertain that most of the gold seekers had left the fields, and had not there been among their number several returned Californians and Australians, whose experience enabled them to form a more correct estimate than the others, the probabilities are that no more, for some time at least, would have been heard of the Nova Scotian gold fields. But in 1862 through their instrumentality several veins were tested successfully and at the close of that year the Commissioners reported that on an average 484 men had been engaged in mining during the season, and that the average earnings of each man per day, was \$1.18.—Compare with this, the return to the Victoria Legislature in 1860 which shewed that during that year, 18,296 men had been employed in quartz crushing, and that the whole product had been 93,025 oz. of gold, giving each miner an average of 31 cents per day only.

The Nova Scotian Gold Commissioner also reported that the leads increased in thickness as in depth, but that it could not be said that they increased in richness. But that when gold was found on the surface, it was also found equally distributed to the depth then mined.

We have now the official reports to the close of 1863. We find that nine gold fields have been established, and twenty-four steam and ten water crushing mills built; that the greatest number of