

There are numerous gypsum mills scattered through Canada, and a rapidly increasing amount, which cannot be readily ascertained, is annually ground for domestic use. A large mill at Hillsboro, New Brunswick, has been working for a number of years on the deposits of that locality, already mentioned as being of the greatest purity.

The principles involved in the manufacture of gypsum are so well known, that the chief interest centres in the comparison of cost. At this establishment, a forty-five horse-power engine furnishes the power necessary for driving the stones, revolving pans, making barrels, etc. Four cauldrons are used, each holding 18,000 lbs.; in the course of a day each boiler will yield three charges. At present this mill is working at only one-fifth of its capacity. From what information the writer has been able to acquire, the cost of the calcined gypsum is about 3s. per barrel of 300 lbs., barrel and paper lining included. This price would of course be materially reduced were the mill working up to its capacity.

The cost of quarrying the gypsum varies from 1s. 5d. to 2s. 6d. per ton; the selling price on board varies from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d., including a short haulage, interest, etc.

The mineral is all held in fee simple, and pays no royalty to the government, and is so abundant, that, as yet, operations have been confined to the outcrops of the beds nearest to the available shipping points. This, of course, materially reduces its price, and the capital charges of the quarry owners.

The vessels employed in carrying the gypsum to the neighbouring ports of the United States, are of small burden: up to 400 tons. When shipping from the Bay of Fundy ports, they sail up with the flood tide, and lie in the soft mud at the wharves when the tide falls; thus, alternately afloat and aground, they receive their cargoes.

The term "inexhaustible" is seldom applicable to the treasures of the earth, as they appear in any one district; but it may be justly enough applied to those deposits as developed in Nova Scotia. The extent of the trade, which, although considerable, falls far short of the facilities nature has offered for its prosecution, may be gathered from the following

STATISTICS.

The town of Windsor may be considered the head-quarters of the gypsum trade, as three-fifths of the total amount shipped is raised in the surrounding quarries. The total amount shipped from Windsor since 1833, is about 2,544,376 tons, of 2,240 lbs., valued at about 2,200,000 dollars.