

all, but of the eighteen which have been officially proclaimed and surveyed, those already noticed include the only ones that have as yet assumed any importance. Among others to which some attention has been drawn are Gold River, Chester, Upper Stewiacke, Mosher's River, Chezzetcook, Musquodoboit, Ship Harbor, Sheet Harbor, Seraggy Lake and Killag. The latter is in Halifax County, about ten miles from Sheet Harbor, and on the east side of a tributary of the Middle River, called the Killag stream. Mr. Bürkner, the enterprising proprietor of mines at Waverley, is now preparing to erect a steam engine and stamp mill in this locality.

GAY'S RIVER.

This district, which has been already alluded to, deserves mention in passing, for although it has never hitherto assumed any importance as a gold field it is not without interest in a geological point of view. It is situated about twelve miles to the eastward of the Shubenacadie station on the Nova Scotia Railway, where, at Corbett's mills, on a small tributary of Gay's River the upturned clay slates of the gold-bearing series, are overlaid by nearly horizontal beds of a red and gray conglomerate belonging to the Carboniferous series. These beds are, at the mills, but a few feet in thickness, and are overlaid by a mass of drift, and by beds of stratified sand and clay. The slates are exposed in the channel of the mill-stream, and good sections of the overlying strata are seen in its banks. The lower portions of this conglomerate abound in flattened scales of gold, sometimes a quarter of an inch in diameter, and have been mined by means of levels driven into the banks of the brook at the junction of the two formations. A foot or more of the base of the conglomerate was thus removed, and being crushed and washed in a pan or rocker yielded rich returns.

Gold has also been found in the drift overlying the conglomerate, which is itself evidently but an ancient consolidated drift, dating from the Carboniferous period. A small quartz vein, having a dip to the east of seventy degrees, is said to have been detected in the underlying clay slates. Quartz veins without gold occur in the slate hills of the vicinity.*

CAPE BRETON.

In his report for 1863 Mr. Campbell has given some interesting notes of an examination made by him, of the north-western shore of Cape Breton Island, from the Strait of Canseau to Cape North. He found alluvial gold in the sands of two streams falling into the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the south of Port Hood, and in one of these, Long Point River, the precious metal was abundant.

Further to the northward, on the Margaree, the Bedeque, and the Wagamatcook or Middle River, which flow, in the lower part of their course, through broad rich valleys, cut out of Carboniferous rocks, gold was constantly detected in numerous trials made by washing gravel, not only from the river beds, but from the neighboring alluvial deposits, and in such quantities that Mr. C. expressed the opinion that gold washings on the north-east branch of the Margaree, and on the Middle River, would prove remunerative. The region has since been proclaimed a gold district, under the name of Wagamatcook, but we have no account of further explorations.

Gold was also observed along three streams near Cheticamp, the first one a little to the westward of that settlement, and two others about seven and fifteen miles to the eastward, known as Steep Mountain River and Lazare, or Red Point River. Beyond these to Cape North his search for gold in several streams was unsuccessful. The rocks along this coast, beyond the limits of the overlying Carboniferous strata, are described as apparently Upper Silurian and Devonian strata, much altered, and affected by undulations, whose general course is N. 20° E., so that an oblique section highly favorable to examination is presented by the shores of the Gulf. The north-western part of this region afforded no gold, but yielded evidences of copper, zinc and silver. The latter metals were observed on the Mackenzie River, which falls into Grand Ance or Limbo Cove. Here, besides veins of zinc ore (calamine), from three to nine inches in thickness, were remarked others of a soft spar holding native silver. In addition to this Mr. Campbell found native silver disseminated in small grains in the gravel of this river, not only near the Gulf but for several miles up its course.

* The above description of the Gay's River deposit is condensed from one copied into Mr. Michel's notes, from a source unknown to me.

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