

Manufacturing Super-Phosphate.

This is an industry that would appear to be within easy reach of enterprising Canadians, and in fact the feasibility of erecting factories for the purpose, convenient to the apatite deposits, is occupying the attention of some of our go-ahead neighbours across the frontier. When it is taken into consideration that thousands of tons of our Canadian apatite are forwarded annually to England and manufactured there and shipped in the form of super-phosphate to Baltimore and other American ports for consumption throughout the United States, it is but reasonable to reflect upon the advisability of utilizing the many natural facilities we have in Canada for manufacturing the product of our apatite deposits. The raw material for the production of sulphuric acid is in abundance; water-power and fuel are everywhere to be found, and cheap labour is procurable. All these are important considerations, and the question of home manufacture of super-phosphate should be carefully looked into. The industry has paid enormously elsewhere, under less favourable circumstances. Why should it fail in Canada?

AN ATTEMPT TO SWINDLE

In almost every mining district there are to be found men who are unprincipled enough to resort to anything that will aid them in perpetrating fraud. Until within a short time, however, the property owners in the County of Ottawa have enjoyed the reputation of being singularly honest in negotiating the sale of their mineral lands, but, alas, a clumsy attempt to *sull* a property in the Gutineau Valley has recently been discovered. The owners, whose names are known to us, are brothers, who, for some time, have been giving their attention to salting their farm with phosphate, and had succeeded in transplanting several hundredweight of the mineral before their fraudulent occupation was detected. When we are in possession of further information on this matter, the names and locality will be published, and in future, any attempts at deception of this nature will speedily be exposed when brought before our notice.

HAYCOCK IRON MINE.

Notwithstanding that very encouraging reports have reached Ottawa during the past few months, relative to the negotiations in England for the sale of the Haycock Iron Mine, it is to be regretted that the matter should not, ere this, have taken more definite shape. A sale can hardly be said to have been concluded until money has changed hands, and we have not yet heard of the English capitalists having

paid over any sum that would effectually bind them to close the bargain. From articles on the subject, which have appeared in the London journals, it is natural to suppose that the gentlemen who are to represent the new company have more than satisfied themselves of the value of the property they have been bidding for. Nothing could be more flattering than Mr. Howson's report, the English expert who was sent out expressly to examine the mine, etc., and, coinciding as he does in every particular with the views formerly expressed by Professor Chapman and others as to the richness of the property, it would appear needless to look for further justification before concluding the purchase, and yet negotiations will remain *in statu quo* pending the arrival of one more visitor from England who has been dispatched for the purpose of re-examining and reporting. It is to be hoped that, at this stage of the negotiations, no unexpected hitch may arise to upset anything that has been already accomplished. That the Haycock Mine is one of great value is an established fact, and that it should have remained idle for so long is much to be regretted, consequently any arrangements with English capitalists that will bring about the resumption of active operations will be satisfactory to those who are interested in the company's welfare and to the Ottawa people in general.

GOLD AND SILVER

In the County of Ottawa.

For some years back repeated rumours have been afloat to the effect that gold and silver-bearing quartz had been discovered in the Township of Wakefield. But a few days ago a local journal gave Mr. Vennor credit for having discovered gold and silver in paying quantities in quartz in the third Range of the above named township. That gold and silver-bearing quartz has been found in the locality there is no reason to doubt, but that it occurs in paying quantity will remain a subject for speculation. Careful examination of the location and the quartz referred to, has convinced scientific men that the precious metals are not to be found there in paying quantities.

ASBESTOS.

The mining rights on the asbestos property, known as Lot No. 11, in the 8th Range of the Township of Templeton, passed into new hands during the month, and the present owners, who are engaged in the manufacture of asbestos goods in New York, are making preparations to begin mining operations. This property, though a good one, has been allowed to remain idle up to the present, and there is every indication that it will develop into one of great value. When work begins

on this property it will be the initiation of asbestos mining in the district, and will doubtless be the means of attracting attention to other deposits, and inaugurating another industry in the Ottawa Valley.

Asbestos mining in the eastern townships actively continues and the mines are yielding freely. The quality of mineral is of high grade as to texture, and the fibre varies in length from one to four, and, in some cases, six inches. In Thetford, Broughton, and Colrairie townships, and at Danville and Wolfstown, the quantity being mined is very great, and the capacity of the mines is being thoroughly tested. It is a question in the minds of many who have visited the localities if the properties are being worked to the best advantage as regards economy, and it is quite possible that some improved system might be devised that would yield a larger profit to the owners.

MINERAL RESOURCES

vs.

SCIENTIFIC MINING.

The following article has appeared in the *Chicago Mining Review* and will bear republishing, as it applies as forcibly, if not more so, to the miners of Canada, as to those of any other section of the globe.

"The many improvements made in mining machinery, and numerous new appliances which are constantly coming to light, tend, in a measure, to show that a great need is becoming recognized, and the inventive minds of the age are running in a direction where much is yet required.

"Mining is practically a new industry to many of our people, and it is evident that the rapid growth of this business and its establishment in widely different fields has been far in advance of the methods and appliances required to secure the best results. That the problem will be successfully solved no one, who comprehends the magnitude of the immense resources to be developed and the important advancement of this great industry, can for a moment question. The mineral field is wide, its character diversified, and its requirements have not been fully met, as the two great factors of cost and loss too plainly testify; but we are making rapid strides in the direction of improvement, and better results indicate the progress made.

"It is very plain to the student of the economic plan of nature that everything created has, somewhere and at some time in the history of development, a place and use, hence it is evident that there is in mineralogy and metallurgy much to be learned, and it is certain that many things, now destroyed as useless, have a value, and should be more carefully investigated and studied by worker and scientist.

"There cannot be too many improvements or new inventions; all must be tried by the test of practical experience and success made from the study of repeated failures. The knowledge gained by the many experiments, in widely diversified fields, must be crystalized into the lines of an exact science, and progress built up from increasing knowledge."

MINING NOTES.

Nova Scotia.

Everything about the mine and mill of the Oxford Gold Mining Company is in a satisfactory condition. The late scarcity of miners, during the fishing season, somewhat retarded operations, but they are now more plentiful, and opening work on the different leads will be proceeded with thoroughly and vigorously. The face of the east bluff is 25 feet high, and enough ore is in sight for three months' work. Work continues on the lake lead, and on the mill lead the main shaft will be sunk by contract as soon as tenders will have been received by the company. The ore in this lead continues of the same high grade that has characterized it heretofore. The milling plant on the property is very complete and is pronounced the best in the province, and equal to any that is in use elsewhere. The assay of tailings at the mine made from time to time shows hardly more than a trace, and the *N. Y. Engineering and Mining Journal* refers to a lot that was tested in New York and gave only 88 cents per ton, which, from perfectly "free" ore, is, to say the least, not a little remarkable when it is milling over \$60 per ton.

This company has declared its regular monthly dividend (No. 6) of 5 per cent., payable August 25th.

Manganese deposits of a very superior quality have been discovered and tested by Mr. R. J. Stephens, near Walton, Hants County, Nova Scotia. It lies in the same formation as the ore of the Tenecape Mine, and is distant from it about eight miles. In Hants County, an irregular annual export of manganese has been maintained, amounting, since 1861, to about 2,000 tons, valued at \$110,000. Formerly extensive operations were carried on at Tenecape, Walton and Pembroke, but are now confined to the first-mentioned locality. The Hants County ores are of a very high grade, yielding 90 per cent. and upwards of peroxide, and, being almost free from traces of iron, are valued by the flint glass maker, as glass is apt to contract a greenish tinge from the presence of iron. It is also used for black enamel for pottery, tiles, etc.; in calico printing, and in many other industrial appliances. The manganese yielding district in Hants County, which gives promising indications, is over