

No. 7.

## NEWFOUNDLAND.

## MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE COLONY.

NEWFOUND-  
LAND.  
MINERAL  
RESOURCES.

No. 1.

SIR H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 13, 1896.)

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,  
December 27, 1895.

SIR,

WITH reference to a conversation I had with you before I left England on the subject of the mineral resources of this Island, and with reference to the instructions which you then gave me on the subject, I now forward a report from Mr. Howley, the head of the Geological Survey of the Island, on the mineral formation of Bell Island in Conception Bay.

2. I also forward plans of the Island in illustration of the report; and some specimens of the ore picked up by chance are also forwarded.

3. It will be seen by the report that part of the minerals of the Island have been leased to a Canadian company; the portion under lease to them is marked in the plan by the dotted black lines; but the minerals in the western portion of the Island are still unlet: they are, I understand, in the hands of about four individuals.

4. In working the minerals on this Island there seem to be two main advantages:—

1. The ease with which the ore is obtained, it being close to the surface; the bed which the Canadian company is now working is so, and I am informed that in bed No. 1 the ore is less than two feet from the surface.

2. The proximity of the beds of ore to deep water. The Canadian company have constructed the necessary works to enable them to ship the ore in the manner described in the report at what is marked on the plan as the "Loading Pier"; but equal facilities are said to exist for the construction of another pier at Lance Cove, and a pier built there would be rather more sheltered than the one at "Loading Pier," partly owing to the lie of the Island itself and partly owing to the protection given by the two small adjacent islands.

5. I do not know whether the ease with which the ore can be obtained and shipped would compensate for the cost of freight across the Atlantic so as to enable it to compete with the Spanish and other ores in European markets, but I forward the report in the hope that you may think it worth while to draw the attention of the Crown Agents to the facts in connection with these minerals,