

In Ontario a few thousand tons are annually mined but the deposits are limited and expensive to work. There are a number of deposits of plaster in New Brunswick, among which may be noticed, one of great purity near Hillsboro, which is ground and calcined on a large scale to supply the local markets.

The effects of plaster as a top dressing on our northern lands do not seem to have been carefully studied yet. It seems however to be established that its use is beneficial to the growth of many of the vegetables, ministering to man's comfort and sustenance, and that conjointly with the limestones associated with it in Nova Scotia it presents the farmer with fertile and permanently nutrient soils. The limestone districts when not associated with plaster do not show equal fertility. There is no doubt that its presence in certain soils is beneficial, and its extended application in this direction much of its future development will be due.

The shipments from Windsor from 1832 to 1867 amounted to 1,404,376 tons, the price varying from 58 to 98 cents, and averaging 72 cents per ton. From that date until the close of 1895 about 2,000,000 tons more have been shipped, the price last year being returned at \$1.00 per ton. In addition for many years past large quantities have been shipped from Cheverie, Walton, etc., the total provincial shipments reaching in some years 160,000 tons. The price of some of the Basin of Minas plaster is returned as low as 50 cents per ton. Even at these low figures fair profits are stated to be made, and this can be believed when the quarries are seen, above water level, close to shipping, and readily drilled and blasted.

The following table shows the Nova Scotia shipments for the past ten years:—

	1895.		1894.		1893.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Arichat, C.B.	1,510	\$ 1,510	.....	.....	5,025	\$ 5,025
Baddeck, C.B.	15,610	14,052	.....	.....	13,700	13,700
Windsor.	96,035	96,035	80,006	\$ 80,006	62,901	62,901
Cheverie.	14,045	7,407	18,205	10,287	9,868	6,634
Walton.	6,100	5,763	7,010	6,336	4,555	4,437
St. Anne, C.B. ....	.....	.....	950	900	.....	.....
Port Hood, C.B. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,542	1,150
Mabou, C.B. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,700	11,000
Parrsboro. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	650	650
	133,300	\$ 124,767	106,171	\$ 97,529	98,247	\$ 95,509

*Add Mabou 27,000 bags ground plaster.

	1892.		1891.		1890.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Arichat, C.B.	1,660	\$ 1,500	510	\$ 510	470	\$ 470
Baddeck, C.B.	11,784	10,386	16,000	.....	.....	.....
Parrsboro.	60	30	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arichat, C.B.	1,030	1,030	.....	.....	.....	.....
Windsor.	124,531	124,531	118,969	116,479	112,264	112,264
Cheverie.	15,891	11,722	17,330	13,433	26,071	19,533
Walton.	7,165	6,519	7,125	7,001	6,300	5,750
Halifax.	120	390	1,200	1,312	346	1,688
Mabou. ....	.....	.....	800	.....	298	298
	162,285	\$ 156,108	161,934	.....	145,749	\$ 140,000

The above are shipments and do not include plaster used in Nova Scotia.

Beware of the Fakirs.

THE REVIEW desires to call the attention of its readers to the large number of companies and syndicates which have been exploiting the larger Canadian cities, particularly Montreal, with a large and diversified collection of mining schemes during the last few months. To our personal knowledge many of these have been "fakes," with absolutely no merit; others have had considerable merit, and some have been *bona fide* propositions on properties of known value.

A large majority of the schemes presented have been from the west, to which, rather than towards older and better known grounds, promoters have lately turned their attention.

THE REVIEW wishes to sound a note of warning to capitalists to thoroughly investigate propositions laid before them, and, in the case of properties presented for purchase, to insist upon examination of such properties by men of calibre and reputation, of whom Canada has a sufficiency for the purpose. The wise and experienced investor will insist every time upon having the opinion of an experienced and successful engineer before concluding his negotiations for mining property.

Another Choice Prospectus.

There has been sent to us recently the most absurd, extravagant, untruthful and altogether unique prospectus in our experience. It is headed:—

FOR SALE—Thirty-three Shares of the "Modstock" Gold Mine. Price, \$3,250 per share

which, as the total number of shares is 100, puts the valuation of this "Modstock" at \$325,000.00!!

This is a sufficiently large value to induce one to read details. We thus learn that this most modest valuation is placed upon 42 acres of land in a newly discovered gold district of Nova Scotia, on which two gold bearing lodes have been found and worked, and on which six other lodes show croppings; that the greatest depth yet attained is 100 feet, and that a ten stamp mill has been at work for six months, the last three months of which are reported to have shewn a profit of \$7,480.

THE REVIEW, for the past ten years, has had an intimate personal knowledge of some, and an editorial acquaintance with all of the Nova Scotia gold mines, but it never knew of the existence of any one gold mine in that province worth anything like such a sum as \$325,000, therefore this circular was diligently perused for information, resulting in the opinion expressed at the beginning of this article. For perverty and badness of grammar, ignorance of the subject, and misleading arithmetic the prospectus is unique, and for truthfulness—there is none.

One is informed at the beginning that the richness of the property "is assured from the fact that 8 parallel veins of gold (sic) run lengthwise" of the property. "Veins of gold" are rare, very rare, but veins of quartz are not, and we have known of properties having many more than eight veins of quartz whose richness was far from "assured." The development (confined to less than 100 feet in depth on the average and to two veins) is said to be "sufficient to establish its present value at half a million," such "establishment" being evidently the product of imagination multiplied by faith, and not reserves multiplied by yields per ton.