

already surveyed) by the proprietors of the MacBean coal and can, by mutual arrangement, be made to subserve the transport of the ore for one-half the distance between the mine and Pictou and Halifax line, near New Glasgow. However this matter eventually be determined, the Spathic is an ore which, at the worst, can bear a good deal of extraordinary handling and carriage.

SURVEYS.—I would recommend that a surveying party be organised and put into the field early in the summer, as well to ascertain the most feasible line for the railways to the several ore beds as for determining the salient topographical features of each of the already selected areas. Some skill and experience will be needed in the selection of the most fitting route for what may be termed the "main line" from the point of junction with the Halifax and Pictou line to the Red Hematite beds. A survey should also be made in connection with the Spathic deposit. (Since this was written the Vale Colliery Railway has been completed to within two miles of this deposit, and the survey recommended by Mr. Shanly satisfactorily completed by Mr. Gilpin.)

EXPLORATION.—The four already chosen "locations"—aggregating about four square miles—are but isolated spots in your wide extent of territory. The developments made on those areas are certainly of most promising character, but there can be no good reason for concluding that equally rich deposits or veins have not still to be discovered *somewhere* within the twenty square miles of territory still to be explored. Strong indications of a vein of Limonite exist on area 105 near by where the junction of the Iron Mines Railway with the Halifax and Pictou line is likely to be.

FURNACES.—I would not yet venture an opinion on the selection of a site for the Smelting Furnaces. It is a matter to be very carefully considered, and should be submitted to the judgment of some one of large experience in the bringing together of coal and ores.

LIMESTONE.—Limestone of fine quality is abundant in the valley of the East River; it is easily worked, and lies conveniently near to where the main line of railway will have to run. As already observed with regard to the Spathic deposit, limestone will probably there be found in juxtaposition with the ore.

IN CONCLUSION.—It would be hard to find in any part of the world so rich and varied an assortment of iron-ore in such con-