

teen thousand tons were consumed by home-manufacturers. We may reasonably look for a like development of the enormous Phosphate-beds in the Ottawa Valley.

It is to be remarked that England has for years been exporting large quantities of the richest superphosphate to the United States, West Indies, and South America, so that there is a fair prospect in the future for the establishment of manufactories in this country, and besides the works at Brockville, now carried on vigorously, some steps have been taken already in this direction.

A recent paper, entitled "Through the Phosphate Country to the Desert," contributed to the *Canadian Monthly Magazine* by Mr. J. G. Bourinot, gives an interesting description of the region, watered by the Gatineau and Lievre rivers, where, until a recent period, the Indian and the Trapper were the only inhabitants. Bouchette, in his topography of Canada, published in 1832, had apparently no notion of the capabilities for lumbering and settlement of a district which has since proved so valuable a pine country, to say nothing of its mineral resources. While Mr. McTaggart, one of the engineers who explored the route for the Rideau Canal, had no better idea of this great tract than that "the vale of the Gatineau would make a most favorable place for convicts," and that "it might become a place of great utility and importance to the Mother country and a receptacle for villains." The whole country, says the paper we have mentioned, for some fifty or sixty miles north of the Ottawa is admirably adapted for grazing. In the description given by Dr. Grant, of Ottawa, of the curious cave in the township, twenty miles from that city, it is noticed that one chamber is entirely encrusted with Carbonate of Lime of a cheesy consistence; while of another, the ceiling, 50 feet high, is described as "beautifully ornamented with stalactites and fringe-like encrustations" of the same substance. In each chamber are to be seen projecting portions of rocks composed chiefly of pyroxene, serpentine, iron pyrites, and various mineral ingredients.

Mr. Vennor, who has long explored that country, is of opinion that the Phosphate covers a broad belt of excessive richness and indefinite extent. Iron exists in great quantities, of superior quality; Mica is picked up almost everywhere; and there are deposits of Asbestos. Extensive and rich mines of plumbago are worked in the vicinity of Buckingham, and the discoveries already made, lead not unnaturally to the belief that further discoveries of valuable economic minerals may be made in this

region—which has hitherto been regarded, in character, as in name, merely as a Desert.

RECIPROCITY AGAIN IN CONGRESS.

A bill has been brought into the Congress of the United States, to enable the President to appoint three commissioners to confer with British commissioners on the subject of reciprocity between the States and Canada. We assume that Canada only is meant, though the British American Provinces are spoken of, and this might be held to include Newfoundland, which in the nomenclature of the Colonial Office does not belong to British America. If an agreement could be come to, it would be much more difficult to include Newfoundland, isolated as she is, than if she formed part of the great northern confederation. She would, in case of exclusion, probably become sensible of the disadvantages of her self-elected and unsocial isolation. The proposal contained in the bill before Congress may come to nothing, or it may achieve the object it aims at.

If anything is to be done, it would be well that it should be done pending the payment on account of the fishery award. Our fisheries would form a substantial item in the proposed exchange; but just now they are in the same position they would be in if under lease to the Americans, we retaining a concurrent right of fishery. It would be possible to arrange the matter by accepting payment in proportion to the amount of the award, for the time that had run between the conclusion of the Treaty of Washington and the going into effect of the new treaty of reciprocity. Canada would lose so much money, but she would get an equivalent in a shape that would be more satisfactory to both parties. Substantially, the same proposal was made when Mr. Brown went to Washington to negotiate a treaty. In that case, it was proposed to exact no money compensation for the use the Americans enjoy of our fisheries; but then there had been no arbitration and no award, and the time during which the privilege had been enjoyed was short. Though we could not now deal in exactly the same way, the difference would not be great, and in point of principle, nothing.

The recurrence of questions of a disputatious nature, between the two countries, is to be regretted; and if they could be settled, once for all, it would be well. The Treaty of Washington settled nothing permanently but the right of the Americans to use the River St. Lawrence. We might, in like manner, give away our fisheries; but trading advantages are constantly liable to change complexion, and probably they could

not be permanently secured to us. And unless there could be permanence of concessions on the one side, there could not be on the other. The navigation of the St. Lawrence rested on another basis, inasmuch as its sources, the great lakes, border on American territory. But our fisheries are our own. At the Peace of 1783, the American negotiators were at first instructed to conclude no treaty which did not give the States a concurrent right of fishery on the shores of British America; but this instruction was withdrawn before the Treaty of Independence was settled. The ground taken by the Americans was that the right was one which had been incident to their position; which they had enjoyed while colonies, and which they ought to carry with them into their new state of national independence. But it was not conceded, and the coast fisheries remained an adjunct to the territory on which they bordered. They have never ceased to be an object of desire to the Americans and they always will be such, while they retain their present prolificness. In point of fact, we believe they are capable of enormous, almost indefinite, extension, especially those on the Labrador coast.

At an early date the Dutch carried their fisheries, in these northern waters, to a height to which neither Canadians nor Americans now think of going, because they find abundant treasures in the waters much nearer home; but the time may, almost certainly will, come when it will be an object for both Canada and the States to extend their fisheries farther north. We know that the American fishery is far from being as prolific as it once was; we know that the Dutch fishery far north failed in the end, and the fisheries of the Gulf of St. Lawrence may become somewhat less prolific. This is not probable from the nature of the fishing grounds, which differ in being more favourably situated from the U. S. coast fisheries; and the northern fisheries of the Dutch which failed were chiefly of the whale, which, from being hunted for a long series of years, finally took refuge among inaccessible icebergs. A fishery spoiled in this way only requires a certain time to revive, while the American fisheries, it is reasonable to believe, are permanently damaged; unless indeed, as is now declared possible, they can be renewed by a scientific treatment of the spawn, as in the case of river fisheries. If the Gulf fisheries should become less prolific, which they are not likely to do to any considerable extent, all that would be necessary for our fishermen would be to go a little farther north, on the Labrador Coast. The substantially permanent character of our fisheries there is no reason to doubt. It has been