

Salmon River.—The approaching completion of the new and powerful mill at this mine will enable an increased output to be obtained next year. The returns show 6415 tons crushed, and a yield of 2070 ounces, averaging 6 dwts., 10 grs., against 7633 tons and 2032 ounces during the year 1889. The uniformity of the yield of large amounts of quartz in this mine is worthy of notice. Up to date this mine has yielded 35,270 ounces from 79,456 tons of quartz.

At Killag crushing has commenced, the December returns of the Kileag Company being 51 ounces from 45 tons. At other points in Halifax County there is little new to report.

The Western Gold Mines were visited by Mr. Madden, Deputy Inspector, who reported that they are worked with proper regard to the safety of the men employed. I append a memo. of his visits:

The returns show:—

	Tons.	Ozs.	Dwt.	Gr.
Brookfield	2500	1613	5	0
Malaga	6798	3809	18	12
Whiteburn	960	810	0	0

There was a large attendance of members at the monthly meeting of the Nova Scotia Gold Miners' Association held at the Halifax hotel on Wednesday last. It is reported that considerable routine business was transacted, and that the association had under discussion a proposition to petition the Dominion Government to order a survey by the geological department of the mineral grounds of this Province. The meeting did not, however, commit itself to any resolution on the subject, and it will shortly be brought up again for action. The association will hold its quarterly meeting on July 4th at Waverley.

ONYX.—Something About Its Working and Its Use in House Decoration.

Onyx is coming into general use for decorative purposes. With the formation of a syndicate to work the Mexican mines and with the discovery of onyx in other places, its use has extended until it is becoming one of the most fashionable decorations in New York. Onyx is a peculiar formation caused by drippings mixed with mineral and earthy substances under heat and pressure. This is not an exact geological definition of it, but it tells what it is. Onyx is usually discovered in caves or other natural openings, and in a mineral neighborhood. The most beautiful kind of onyx is formed by various kinds of minerals running through it in streaks and tints.

Onyx is the same improvement over fine marble that marble is over ordinary stone. It also costs as much more. These are two reasons why people who are putting up fine houses in this town are beginning to use it. It differs from marble in taking on a higher degree of polish, in being harder, with a greater reflection, a finer grain, more refined and delicate tints and prettier streaks. Streaked marble is not popular, because it is usually not streaked in a way to add to its decorative effect. In onyx the delicate green fern, reddish and brown streaks, appear beautifully on an ivory background.

Onyx is got out in as large blocks as it can be quarried. The quarrying has to be done with wedges and saws, as it cannot be blasted or dug out with safety. The grain and streaks are so delicate that a blast might spoil thousands of dollars' worth. One cave of onyx was ruined by the use of powder. The man who owned the cave started to get out the onyx by the slow process of saws and wedges. He got out several car loads, when the thought struck him that he could take all the onyx out of the cave at one blast. So he put his men to work and drilled through the cave, arranging his blast so that it would have \$40,000 or \$50,000 worth of onyx to be shipped at once. The drill holes were charged and the blast was exploded. None of the onyx was fit for use except in mosaics and such work. There was not a sound bit four feet long in the cave. This taught the other onyx miners a lesson, and no shocks and blasts or detonations are allowed in the cave or in the neighborhood, for fear that the onyx may be cracked or that some small cracks may be enlarged.

Onyx is worth in the rough from \$3 to \$15 per cubic foot. The price is not steady, as it depends on the demand and the length and shape of the block got out, as well as the appearance of the onyx. The market for onyx is something like the market for meerschaum, only less regular. A man who buys a block of onyx takes it to some extent on speculation. He does not know how it will saw and polish. There may be cracks inside of it which he does not see, and the grain and streaks on the outside may not be carried through.

The onyx in its rough state looks like other stalactites and stalagmites, though it might be taken for marble by any one not in the business. It is worked much as marble is, by sawing and polishing, except that more care has to be exercised and that the polishing is more difficult. When it is worked up it will sell for \$1 to \$5 a square foot, according to its appearance and size.

Some dealers make onyx up in mantels, but even though an onyx mantel is costly, the dealers do not like to make it up in that shape, as they say that it vulgarizes the onyx and will end in cheapening it. Onyx is beautiful for tables, mirrors, and panels. There are only four or five dealers in it now in New York, but when the new syndicate begins shipping here steadily, onyx will be pushed. It is no more rare now than the finer marble used to be.

RAISED UP:—This is to certify that for years I had been a sufferer from dyspepsia and for the past six months ending the middle of May, 1890, I was bed-fast, when I commenced taking K. D. C. which I am happy to say so far restored me to health that I am now able to attend to my household duties. To any suffering from this disease I would heartily recommend K. D. C.

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