

Company with considerable economy and skill. The mine has always paid a fair profit; but part of this has been wisely invested in opening up the mine more extensively. A cross-cut has been driven at a depth of 90 feet, and two valuable lodes have been intersected; one two feet wide, yielded only \$7 per ton at the surface, but at this depth it gave \$18. The mill contains eight stamps, which are not sufficient for the capabilities of the mine. It is rumoured, however, that an English Company has purchased the mine for \$60,000. The Montreal Mine still languishes. Some work has been done on tribute during the past year. A good working capital is necessary to develop the value of this property, and there is every reason to believe that it would have a good result. The Queen, Westlake, Union, and a host of others have either been abandoned or continue work only with a few men on tribute.

Oldham.—During the past year this district has increased in interest. The Frazer and Ritchie Claim yielded some very rich quartz, principally carrying coarse gold and nuggets. Messrs. Tucker, Tobin and Canning have continued work with skill and enterprize on their properties. The mill of eight stamps has been put in good condition, and altogether their prospects are good. It is understood that some English capitalists have been enlisted in the enterprize, and work will therefore be carried on with more vigour. The Boston and Oldham Mine changed hands, and under efficient management is likely to add considerably to the produce of the district. The Mine belonging to R. G. Frazer & Co. was worked for the first half of the year, but the returns falling off work was stopped. There are several other parties at work, but mostly on a limited scale.

Renfrew.—The Ophir Company has not produced so largely during the past year as formerly. Owing to the exceptionally dry Summer and Autumn the mill could not run for some months. The rich bunches of ore in the north and south lodes have been pretty well worked out, and they are now obliged to fall back upon the poorer portions. There never was a more glaring example of improvident mining. In two years this mine earned a clear profit of \$150,000, but every dollar had to go into the pockets of the shareholders, and not a dollar was spent upon opening up the mine. Had ten per cent. of the profits been expended in opening up the lodes, the Company would have had a good dividend-paying mine for many years to come. "Expediency," Kossuth says, "is the curse of politics"—it is the curse of mining in an equal degree. The Colonial Company owns the extension of the Ophir lodes, but at present does not work them. The rich quartz of the Ophir dips into the Colonial property, impoverishing the Ophir and enriching the Colonial. The latter cannot take advantage of its position, as they have no machinery for pumping and hoisting. The McLeod Lode continues to yield very rich quartz. There are many known valuable lodes on the Colonial property, but working capital is required to develop them. The mill of 16 stamps is probably the most substantial in the Province, and it could be kept fully employed if a little enterprize were shown in opening the mine. The year's working has resulted in a profit, but not in proportion to the capabilities of the property. The Free Claim was purchased by Mr. C. H. Gay, and others of Boston. Under his vigorous management the Mine has been well equipped, and a very rich lode opened up. Some exploratory work has been done by Upper Canada Companies, but without result, as freely predicted by the knowing ones of the district.

Tangier.—The Strawberry Hill Company declared a dividend during the year, but some time has been lost and money spent in opening up the continuation of the Forest Lode. The late returns have been very satisfactory. The New York Company's property changed hands, and work was commenced in the autumn. The Mine is well equipped, and the quartz has yielded about

14 dwt per ton. The Old Tangier or Mooseland—very little work has been done during the year.

Ecum Secum.—The Atlantic Company erected a mill, but had not the means left to develop the mine. Work for the present has, therefore, been abandoned.

Sherbrooke.—The Wellington Mine which has always yielded large returns, was stopped for some months during the summer. The lode had been worked to the limit of the Company's property, and they were, therefore, compelled to stop or purchase the adjoining areas. They accomplished the latter on favourable terms, and work was resumed in the autumn. The quartz has proved rich, and the monthly profits are stated to be over \$3,000. An English Company is reported to have purchased the whole property for \$6,000. The Dominion Mine has continued to yield steadily. The lode is wide and produces from \$6 to \$13 per ton. Some of the smaller lodes on the same property have yielded from \$40 to \$60 per ton. The new mill of the Company has been in operation all year, and does its work well. Mr. G. J. Dickinson, formerly of the Rivere Copper Company, took charge of the mine in May last, and had he been in charge from the first the Company would have been in a different position. A very grave mistake was made financially. Instead of the Directors calling up the amount provided for working capital they borrowed the money, and the Mine has been labouring under debt ever since. With present appearances a few months' work will clear this away, but nevertheless, this same policy almost invariably proves fatal to any mining enterprize. The Palmerston completed a new water power mill, of twelve stamps, during the year, but very little work has been done in opening up the mine.

The Chicago Mine made good progress under the new manager, Mr. Twist. He had great experience in California, and feels sanguine that he can work to better advantage in Nova Scotia. The past year has been one of expenditure, and this year will prove one of dividends. The New York and Sherbrooke Company made a good discovery in the autumn, a new lode 15 inches wide, and yielding about two ounces per ton. Mr. Zwickel, the manager, was in Europe the greater part of the year, and but little work was done in consequence. The Wentworth was sold in December by Sheriff's sale, but bought in for the principal Shareholders. There is an excellent mill, and the quartz from the principal lode would pay well if economically worked. The Woodbine and Caledonia have disappointed their purchasers in every respect. A little investigation into the manner of carrying out the sale would do no harm. The Meridian has done nothing during the year towards developing the rich lodes which must traverse the property. The same may be said of the Canada. They both have excellent mills, but it would have been wiser to develop the mine first and build the mill afterwards. Meg Dodds' advice might be well applied, "First catch your hare." The Crescent, Delta, Blue Lead, Avon, and a host of others may be numbered with the dead or dying.

Wine Harbour.—The Eldorado tunnel was finished up to the middle lode. The mill was refitted with new batteries, and all put in good order. Some misunderstanding among the proprietors caused the property to be sold, and the ownership is still in dispute. The Provincial has done nothing for the last six months of the year. New machinery was provided, but never erected, the property having been sold in December to cover advances. This mine has produced gold to the value of \$300,000, and where this large amount came from there is every likelihood of obtaining more. Working capital is again the necessity. The Napier has been opened in a more systematic manner than any other mine in the Province. Several rich lodes have been cut, but work has been almost entirely suspended, pending the transfer of the property to an English Company. The Eureka erected machinery for pumping and hoisting, and finished a new mill of 15 stamps.

It has produced very little gold so far, but the property is valuable. Working capital is required. The Orient changed hands in the Autumn, but no work has been done. The Globe, McIntosh and Stadacona have been under the management of Mr. D. McIntosh. The first named produced considerable gold during the early part of the year, but the properties are so mixed up that it is difficult to obtain satisfactory information concerning them.

Isaac's Harbour.—The Mulgrave unfortunately came to grief, and was sold. It was bought in on account of Mr. Hugh Allan and others. A new lode discovered last Summer promised well, but we have not heard the results of the crushing. A very important discovery was made in the Autumn in this District. At Dung Cove a rich band of slate and quartz was uncovered. A width of fully four feet is extremely rich, and is reported to have yielded nearly 6 oz. per ton. One half interest in the property was purchased by Mr. F. N. Gisborne, of London. This rivals the best results of any mines in California or Australia.

Gold River.—Explorations were carried on here from May until November by Mr. A. Michel. He is the most skilful and thorough explorer who ever yet attempted it on a large scale in Nova Scotia. He found gold in the alluvium over a wide area, and his report will be valuable.

Ovens.—Some work was carried on here during the Summer, but it has since been stopped, Mr. McKay, the proprietor, having been dissatisfied with the results.

Musquodaboit.—Mr. Burkner has done considerable work here during the past year. This is the Leopold Mine referred to in the City Article of the *Times* as about to be purchased by the Halifax Gold Mining Co. of London. The lode is 8 feet wide, and yields from \$5 to \$7 per ton. Some smaller lodes have given higher results; 18 tons from a cross vein yielded 64 oz. of gold. There is an 8 stamp-mill on the property. Mr. Turquois who owns some adjoining claims, discovered a very rich cross vein on his property. The result of the crushing we have not yet heard. Some prospecting has been done in other localities, but with no very interesting results.

Taken as a whole the result of the year's mining has been highly favourable, and the current year will show a still greater improvement. The report of the Commissioner of Mines has not yet been published, so it is impossible to give the figures for the various districts, but the average earnings of the miners will be greater in 1869 than in the year preceding. In 1868 an average of 775 men earned \$490.34 each. This of course included a very large number of men employed in exploring, and on other unproductive work. During the past year there was less waste of labour, and consequently the average earnings will be higher.

One lesson may be learned from the experience of the past year, *i. e.*, the folly of paying high prices for mining properties. In every instance the money paid in has been for the property, and nothing has been reserved for working capital. Working capital is the first essential, and without it no mine can be put into a paying condition. When people rail against mining, and the Montrealers more especially against Nova Scotia mining, let them reflect that they suffer more from their own folly and shortsightedness. Had they said—"No,—we shall pay no such price for this property but will furnish you with sufficient working capital to develop the mine and equip it with the necessary machinery," then the result would have been different. They could easily be having 25 per cent. dividends instead of groaning over lost capital. Mining is like any other business. It requires capital, skill, and economy. Where those have been judiciously applied in Nova Scotia the results have been great. On the other hand, where no money is provided for working, and the whole management left with an incompetent or careless superintendent, nothing but ruin can result. Mining has made England what she is commercially; it has given her a new em-