

that Cape Breton is not only a wonderful, but a mysteriously fabulous, have been told of both quality and quantity of the iron ore there. These areas are still undeveloped.

Gypsum, as you no doubt know, abounds in large quantities on this Island. Much of it is of poor quality, but a chemical analysis which was made of gypsum near the mouth of Mabou River on the west side of the Island, showed it to be of very high quality. Two different deposits of Talc or Soapstone have come under my notice; one of them at Brigend, near Whycoomah, and another on the shore between Louisburg and Kennington Cove. This latter port is the Cove made famous by the landing of Pepperel when he undertook the siege of Louisburg. From persons who were spending their money in the development of these two prospects, one learned that the quality was excellent, but the quantity so small that it would not pay to develop on a large scale.

Gold has been mined to some extent in the vicinity of Baddeck, but apart from newspaper reports and the glowing accounts of a man who tried to sell some stock in his company, I know nothing.

Some few rich samples of Plumbago have been mined at Banacadia Mountain near Grand Narrows. These areas were owned at one time by the late H. F. McDougall, M.P., and on at least two different occasions, considerable money was spent in prospecting and developing. Again the complaint was lack of quantity.

Manganese, so necessary in steel making, is known to exist, in small quantities at least, near Catelon in quite close proximity to the Sydney and Louisburg Railway. The owner of this has used this manganese mine as a lever with which to pry the S. & L. Company away from some of its money, when it became necessary for the company to buy a railway right-of-way across his farm. Other than that there is no positive knowledge of the actual value of it.

Barytes is known to exist in the vicinity of Lake Ainslie, and, in fact, has been mined and exported from Whycoomah for some years. Much of the white lead which we buy for painting purposes is adulterated with Barytes from this mine.

For fifty years petroleum has been known to exist in the vicinity of Lake Ainslie, and in its crude state has exuded from rocks in such a way that it has been caught in cans by the nearby residents very much as maple sap is caught. I have known of this petroleum being used for lubricating purposes on carts and farm machinery. Systematic boring and exploration have been carried on for many years and quite a large amount of money expended in this way, but up to date no gushing well has yet been located.

Silver lead with graphite has been found of high quality in the East Bay Mountain, some fifteen miles from North Sydney. Traces of copper were also found in this same vicinity. Some two years ago an expert appeared and undertook the development of these areas.

I might say here that this claiming-to-be-expert was one of the most optimistic men I have ever met amongst mining engineers or explorers, and some was claimed that he was the original mining engineer on whom that old gag was got off—"Positive—

liar; comparative—liar; superlative—mining engineer."

Fire clay of a very fine quality was found in connection with the famous 13 ft. seam in the Inverness coal region.

Some very rich samples of silver lead have been taken from this East Bay section, in fact, some of them by the writer, but again the quantity was lacking.

A geological formation with which I am not familiar, is known to exist in considerable quantities near Bell's Creek, at the head of the Sydney Harbor. This has been tested and found to be of the same composition as the material of which the famous Scotch firebrick is made. A company was formed to operate this, of which the late Graham Fraser was the moving spirit. Mr. Fraser's death unfortunately stopped all work in this connection, but from what I have seen and heard of this, it is still worth further investigation.

Tungsten and Molybdenum were both claimed to be found in Inverness County in the vicinity of Cheticamp, but of this I have no personal knowledge other than newspaper reports which I have read.

Cannel coal in veins of at least twenty inches thickness has been unearthed by the late Pat Neville and myself in our coal explorations."

There are those who still have hope that systematic exploration will yet bring to light some of the minerals referred to, in quantities sufficient to be of commercial value. Among these is Prof. Woodman, Associate Professor of Geology, Harvard University. Sent at the instance of the local government to spy out the land, he made his report. A portion only is given as follows: "Owing perhaps to the late opening up of the county, and in part to the fact that there is in Cape Breton no one series of ore bearing rocks of wide extent, easily recognized, the Island has not received in the past the attention paid to equal areas of the mainland of Nova Scotia. In this we must except the interest in the coal formation of the Sydney basin in the east. Moreover, for some reason, difficult to discover, the firm belief appears fixed in the minds of many, that nothing good of a metallic nature can come out of the Island. That this is a false impression any one can learn by a sufficiently careful study of the rocks. There is no doubt but that the region occupied by the older rock is one in which a number of districts are capable of successful development if judiciously handled, with the proper distribution of men and money. I am the more pleased to have arrived at this opinion, because it has been reached by direct field work, influenced by no prepossessions in favor of the district, with little hope held out, except by a few who had seen some of the territory, and with full knowledge of the well nigh universal condemnation accorded the country in commercial circles. I would be unjust if I were to convey the impression that I have seen anything that indicates the presence of enormous wealth in the rocks of any locality. But it is not upon such foundation that the prosperity of a region can be based. Prosperity is far more likely to follow the healthy development of lasting investments which yield moderate rewards, and I believe there is room for such in the ores of Cape Breton. To make the best use of what may be in the rocks, however, thorough and systematic study