

or the mineral resources themselves. As a rule mining operations have generally been attempted at such a distance from the source of supplies and the market for ores, that the transportation has been in many cases greater than the value of the ores in the market centres. Under these circumstances no profitable results can be expected, and one mistake has been in expecting immediate results from operations in this direction. No sane man would open up and place in order for production a tract of agricultural land at such a distance from the market and points of consumption that the cost of transportation would be more than the value of the grain when it reached the market, and it is just as absurd to expect profit from mining operations under similar circumstances. All that can really be reasonably demanded from operations in a large proportion of the mining camps at present is development so that the mines may be ready to produce ore when milling, market, transportation and other facilities are available. The fact that under all these adverse circumstances mining operations have been able to show such a favorable result upon the whole, is a most conclusive proof of their magnificent value, when circumstances and conditions are favorable to their legitimate operation and prosecution. We must protest against the common verdict which is rendered against mining, when the true facts connected with its development in the direction of legitimate production are not taken into consideration."

THE PHOSPHATE MINES OF OTTAWA COUNTY.

After a visit to the mines in the near vicinity of the Riviere du Lievre, one cannot fail to be impressed with the belief that phosphate mining is a very profitable industry. For eighteen miles from the village of Buckingham, along the ice road on the river, can be seen a moving stream of teams hauling mineral to the C. P. R. Depot for shipment, and the thousands of tons that have already been delivered there present an interesting sight. Owing to the difficulty of forwarding the ore to point of shipment during the summer it is allowed to accumulate for winter transportation, and at present there are not less than

two hundred and fifty teams continually engaged hauling from the different mines. The road on the ice is, and has been all winter, in excellent condition for this purpose, and the mine-owners are confident they will continue so for a sufficient length of time to enable them to forward all their output to the railway without increasing the carrying force. The mines are turning out phosphate in large quantities, and the average cost of mining, in the du Lievre district, will not exceed \$5 per ton when dressed and ready for shipping. Mining operations are being conducted at present with better system than heretofore, and to an observer the scene at the mines is one of unusual activity.

THE MINES.

"HIGH ROCK."—Eighty men are employed at this mine and about twenty tons of mineral is estimated to be the daily output. The manager reports that he will deliver 5,000 tons at Railway Depot before the winter roads break up.

THE "UNION" gives employment to 60 miners and the daily output is not less than 20 tons. There has already been forwarded 2,400 tons of very fine mineral, with more to follow. At this mine there are in use steam hoists and drills and other modern machinery, and the buildings on the property are most complete in every respect. Captain Smith, manager for the Union Phosphate Company, deserves much credit for the manner in which he has equipped this property.

"NORTH STAR."—This mine is looking well, in fact better than at any former period. A force of sixty men produce 12 tons daily, and if the property continues to improve as it has done during the past month the daily output will much increase. Seven hundred tons of phosphate have been delivered at the railway depot and 400 tons are mined and awaiting transportation.

THE "WATT," now known as the Little Rapids Mine, has not been worked for ore since Mr. Allan purchased it in the winter, but, preparatory to organizing for active operations in the spring, a small force is employed opening a new deposit which is developing well and adds greatly to the value of the property. The quality of the mineral at this mine is unequalled at any phosphate mine in Canada.

THE "EMERALD" employs 50 men who raise 20 tons daily, and 2,000 tons of fine mineral, now mined and dressed, will be forwarded to point of shipment this winter. A drift has been run from the face of the mountain for 63 ft. in the direction of the main pit, and an-

other for 31 ft. from the pit towards it, which leaves 20 ft. of drifting to be done before they join. When this has been accomplished work will go ahead more rapidly. The phosphate that is being taken from this mine is very clean and pure.

The property adjoining the "Emerald," known as the Fitzgerald Mine, has been purchased by the Dominion Phosphate Company, and mining operations will begin as early as practicable in the spring under the superintendence of Mr. W. H. Smith, the Company's manager at their North Star mine.

In the Township of Templeton the "McLaurin" and the "Post" mines are turning out ore plentifully and the property being worked by Laurie & Co. is developing well.

In Wakefield the "Haldane," the "Gemmill" and the "Moore" mines have been improving for some time past and have developed into very valuable properties. From each of these mines a fairly large quantity of fine mineral will be forwarded for summer shipment, aggregating from 1,000 to 1,200 tons.

Phosphate Quotations.

The latest quotations received from abroad show no variation from last month's report, the ruling price being 1s. 3d. per unit for 80 per cent. mineral on wharf at Liverpool and other points. No recent sales have been reported that would establish a price to govern the season's transactions.

Navigation of the Riviere du Lievre.

It has at last been definitely settled that the much needed improvements at the Little Rapids are to be made, and work will be begun as soon as the ice will have left the river. A petition, signed by a large number of the prominent lumbermen and phosphate miners of the Du Lievre district, was forwarded to the Minister of Public Works praying that a Lock should be built at the Little Rapids, and that the same should be so constructed as to raise the water above the lock sufficiently to make the river navigable as far as High Falls. Subsequently Mr. Alonzo Wright, M.P., in company with Mr. Andrew Holland of this city, representing the petitioners, called upon Sir Hector Langevin who promised them positively that the necessary improvements would be begun in the spring and energetically pushed to completion. An appropriation (\$6,000) is included in the estimates for this purpose, and there now exists no doubt that the day is not far distant when steamers of useful capacity will ply between Buckingham village and High Falls.

Too much credit cannot be given to the popular member for Ottawa County for the deep interest he has always evinced in matters affecting

the requirements of his constituency, and in this instance the granting of the petition has been due to his prompt and earnest action.

It is gratifying to know that the articles which appeared in *Review* directing attention to the necessity of the improvements above referred to, have not been disregarded. Other improvements, strongly urged in its columns, to facilitate the transportation of phosphate from the landing at the Village of Buckingham to the C. P. Ry., will be carried into effect early in spring, arrangements having been completed, we understand, to repair and macadamize the road between these points by private enterprise. This will overcome a most obnoxious hinderance which the phosphate miners have had to contend against since the industry was first started in the district.

OXFORD GOLD MINE.

The report of Mr. M. F. Hunt, President of the Oxford Gold Mining Company, of Lake Catcha District, Nova Scotia, dated New York, 15th December, 1883, addressed to the stockholders, at the Company's first annual meeting, could not fail to have been received by them with unqualified satisfaction. The President after describing the property known as the Oxford Gold Mine, composed of 63 mining areas, proceeds to carefully review the Company's operations from the time of its organization up to December 1st, 1883, and to point out what has been accomplished on the properties since the beginning of actual mining operations in March 1882, and shows that such operations have resulted in producing an output of 2,177 tons of milled ore, yielding an average of \$29.82 per ton, representing a bullion product of \$64,934.31 received in New York from August 9th, 1882, to November 30th, 1883. Attached to the report is the financial statement showing the total receipts from the product of the mine to have reached the handsome sum of \$65,735.55, and the disbursements, for actual operating expenses, to have amounted to but \$30,266.91, in addition to which a large amount is shown to have been expended on plant and \$27,125 paid in dividends.

Since the President's report was published we have learned that the bullion product for the month of December amounted to \$4,380.10, and on December 31st dividend No. 10 was paid, amounting to \$2,875; making a total of \$30,000 paid in dividends during 1883.

Such flattering representations as those we have quoted cannot but lead to the conclusion that the Oxford Gold Mining Company is in a flourishing industrial condition. This state of affairs is not more attributable to any extraordinary richness or extent of the different