

tions, and a constant and sure source of supply for some years to come at least is a first requisite. The advisability of thus testing the lower portion of the serpentine has been pointed out in the Reports of the Geological Survey of Canada, and the use of the Diamond drill by which cores could be readily obtained at a very cheap rate from a number of holes, bored at different angles, advocated. The cost of boring such holes to a depth say of 150 to 200 feet should, when the machine is on the ground, not exceed fifty cents per foot, and should veins of asbestos reticulate through the rocks as plentifully at such depths as are now seen at the surface, their presence would, without doubt, be recognized in some of the holes.

As regards the present status of the industry, there are at present engaged in mining at Thetford no less than six companies, two new ones having commenced operations during the past season, viz.: Messrs. Lucke and Mitchell, of Sherbrooke, the Thetford Mining Company, the Beaver Asbestos Company and others. The low lying area between the railway and Thetford River has been proved to some extent by different parties, and while promising veins have been found at several points, these do not appear so numerous or so important as regards size and quality as those in the knoll at Thetford station. These areas should be thoroughly tested and their value ascertained before dumping grounds are located there, which may require to be removed again before long, since it is very possible that large and important veins may be concealed. On the property of Lucke & Mitchell several veins of very fine fibre, in thickness up to nearly two inches, are found in a portion of the low lying area, so that care is necessary in laying out the work for the future.

At Black Lake several new companies have taken up areas and commenced development work, preparatory to mining during the coming season. These are for the most part located contiguous to the line of the Quebec Central Railway to the south-west of the present workings, and adjoining the mine of the Anglo-Canadian Co. Among these new companies are the