

CORUNDUM LANDS OF ONTARIO.

In his well-known work on the geology of Canada, published thirty-five years ago, Logan notes an occurrence of corundum in the Township of Burgess, in Lanark County, being on the second lot in the ninth range. There, in contact with crystalline limestone, is a rock made up of feldspar, quartz, calcite, silvery white mica and sphene and disseminated through it were found small grains of a mineral whose color varied from light rose-red to sapphire-blue, while a hardness of greater than topaz showed it to be corundum. Small crystals of light blue corundum were also found in the limestone of the vicinity. But so little interest did the discovery awaken that for many years the place of occurrence was forgotten and unknown, and it was only the circumstance of a much greater and far more valuable find of the same mineral in Carlow Township, Hastings County, that led as a matter of curiosity to the re-discovery of the Burgess corundum a few months ago.

Speaking of the discovery of this valuable deposit, Mr. Archibald Blue, Director of Mines of the Ontario Government, says:—

More than twenty years ago a little girl and her father were sitting on the rocks to rest after a walk through the woods at their home in North Hastings, and an oddly shaped stone which she picked up suggested to her mind the form of the glass stopper of a cruet-stand bottle. It was a crystal of corundum which had been weathered out of its matrix, but neither the child nor her father had then a suspicion of its name, nor that it had any relation, near or remote, to sapphire or ruby.

Still later, other discoveries of the mineral were made in the same region, and it was mistaken for apatite or the phosphate of lime. The nearest guess to its identity was made by a man who had studied mineralogy, and he thought it was emery.

Finally it happened that a lot of rocks was sent to the Geological Survey by some collector in Carlow, and, having lain for several years in a storehouse, they were turned over by Mr. Ferrier, the lithologist of the Survey, who discovered in one of the specimens a

crystal which he identified as corundum. This was two years ago, and it was the beginning of the end of the romance. Mr. Ferrier proceeded from Ottawa to Carlow Township, under the instructions of his chief, Dr. George M. Dawson, and with Nesbitt Armstrong, of the New Carlow Mills, for guide, he succeeded in finding the corundum.

A few days later information of the discovery was communicated by Dr. Dawson to the Bureau of Mines at Toronto, and in view of its importance and the possibilities of other deposits in the district, the mining rights in the lands were withdrawn from sale pending the carrying out of well-planned exploration.

This was late in 1896, and the work could not be undertaken until the following year, when it was placed in the hands of Prof. Willet G. Miller, of the Kingston School of Mining. The tracing of the mineral became an easy matter, and by the middle of October Prof. Miller had located occurrences throughout seven different townships and over an area of about 100 square miles. These townships are Carlow, Raglan, Bangor

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