

Ochres.—In several parts of the province, but chiefly in the environs of Three-Rivers, at St. Anne de Beaupré, and in immense quantities on the north shore of the St. Lawrence from the Saguenay downwards.

Petroleum.—Indications of this mineral have been noted at several points in the county of Gaspé, and an American company are actually making borings to discover the oil wells.

Natural Gas and Mineral Waters occur abundantly in the entire valley of the St. Lawrence from Three Rivers to Lake Champlain, a region which also contains immense peat bogs, capable of furnishing a fuel which was even used for a certain time by the Grand Trunk Railway for of its locomotives.

Granite.—In the Lake St. John region, there is a red granite superior to the Scotch article ; it takes a splendid polish and can be extracted in blocks of any size. Our grey granite of Stanstead is already largely used for building and ornamental purposes and also takes a fine polish.

Serpentine.—In the Eastern Townships and the region of the Notre-Dame mountains, entire mountains are composed of this marble, which occurs in such large quantities as to permit of its use not only for ornamental, but for building purposes.

According to the data collected to date, it may be asserted without exaggeration that the province of Quebec embraces 1,000,000 acres of iron-bearing lands, 500,000 acres of phosphate lands, 100,000 acres of asbestos lands ; 50,000 acres of copper lands, 100,000 acres of auriferous lands, and 10,000 acres of oil lands, or a total of 2,000,000 acres of mineral lands containing workable deposits.

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SOIL.

As regards the quality of the soil, our province may be divided into three distinct regions : the region of the Laurentides, the region of the Eastern Townships, and the valley of the St. Lawrence properly so termed, to which our geologists have given the name of the Champaign region.

The hard rocks of the Laurentides are intersected by numerous bands of crystalline limestone, which, by their softness and decomposition, have given birth to a great number of valleys of fertile soil. The slopes of the hills are covered with a layer of vegetable mould supporting an apparently abundant vegetation ; but this soil has been partially destroyed by fire in the clearings, which has left the rock exposed. In the river valleys and bottoms of this great plateau, there are, however, considerable tracts of good land, with a deep soil and densely wooded. Here is found the greater part of our forest domain, especially those splendid forests of pine and spruce which supply the export trade and furnish to the province its principal source of revenue, next to the Federal subsidy.

The lands of the Eastern Townships embrace all the mountainous region from the Vermont frontier to the eastern extremity of the province. Like those of the Laurentides, these lands are formed from crystalline rocks,