

MINERAL RESOURCES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

(continued.)

IN this paper it is proposed to notice, very briefly, a few of those productions, which, though perhaps not strictly belonging to the class of minerals, yet approach them so closely that they necessarily find an appropriate place here, and first among these in importance and extent of deposit, is that most useful of fertilizers to certain soils, "gypsum." Nova Scotia has long been engaged in its production, and the trade in it has reached very large proportions. In 1861 the quantity exported from thence was 123,000 tons, nearly the whole of which was sent to the United States. Although enormous quantities of gypsum are known to exist in New Brunswick, very little has yet been done towards the development of this branch of industry. By far the largest part of the whole quantity produced in the Province is due to the operations of the "Albert Manufacturing Company," whose works are situated at Hillsborough, in Albert County. In 1865 this Company sent to market 1,300 tons of rock gypsum, 470 tons and 480 barrels of ground, and 2,748 barrels of calcined. The total exports from the Province during that year amounted to less than 6,000 tons—consequently this Company may be credited with very nearly the whole of the year's exports. War interfered very much with the trade in gypsum, the market in the Southern States being, of course, completely closed—but as it is one of the very few articles not affected by the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, and it is absolutely essential to the successful cultivation of large districts, the demand will probably soon become larger than ever.

The principal localities within the Province where gypsum is found are, at Hillsborough in Albert Co., where, says Professor Hind, there are "at least six localities forming the half of a circle." "Again, South of the Albert Mines and in magnificent mural cliffs, on Grass Mill Stream, Shepody River, and Harvey Parish." At Shepody Bay, in Westmoreland County Martin's Head in St. John Co. (the same locality in which the copper mines described in our last paper are situated,) there are extensive deposits; and, lastly, at the mouth of the Wabskehen, (a stream falling into the Tobique River,) there are immense cliffs of impure gypsum, rising to the height of 130 feet. These last named deposits are, it is true, very remote from the sea-board, but there are at least two periods in the year, spring and fall, during which water carriage would be available for conveying the manufactured article to market.

Grindstones are produced in considerable quantities in Westmoreland and Gloucester Counties and an extensive deposit is known to exist on the Tobique suitable for both grindstones and mill stones. The exports of grindstones from the Province in 1861 was 42,476.

Limestone is also abundant in many localities, that in the neighbourhood of St. John being of remarkably good quality, and in quantity sufficient to meet any demand that could possibly be made upon its productiveness.

A freestone of splendid quality is also found at the head of the Bay of Fundy, for which quite an active demand has sprung up in the United States, notwithstanding the high rate of duty imposed. In New York and Boston it is preferred to the Cleveland stone.

At Sussex Vale there are salt works in operation, which are the result of Professor Hind's explorations in 1865. In his report he calls attention to the fact that the manufacture of salt is frequently a very lucrative field for private enterprise, and notices that the Onondaga salt springs in the State of New York yielded 7,280,331 bushels of salt. The British American Provinces obtain the greater part of the salt they require from Great Britain, but there is every reason to believe that a very large proportion, at all events, could be obtained within our own borders. The salt in Sussex Vale is obtained from natural brine springs, and the establishment of salines on the Gulf Shore is regarded by scientific men as quite practicable. On this point, Professor Hind says—"The shores of the Bay of Chaleurs and the Gulf Coast would probably afford many favorable localities for the establishment of salines; the heat of the summers of New Brunswick, which may be compared to 'those of the South of France,' would produce a very rapid evaporation, while the severe frosts of the winters might be turned to account for the concentration of the waters by freezing, as is practised in 'Northern Russia.' It is scarcely necessary to remark that there would be no market to seek; the

fisheries would gladly absorb every ton that might be produced. The value of the salt imported into New Brunswick alone in the year 1862, exceeded £21,000, and in 1865 it exceeded £30,000.

In bringing this series of necessarily imperfect sketches to a conclusion, we would observe that the leading idea has been to advance the general public by attracting attention to what may be regarded as the hitherto neglected, or only partially developed resources of this part of the Dominion of Canada, and while doing this, have been very careful to state only such facts as have come to our own personal knowledge, or such as have been obtained from undoubted sources of information. That the minerals of New Brunswick offer a wide and profitable field for the employment of skill and capital, we think there can be no reasonable doubt, and we would earnestly impress upon the Government the necessity that exists for a thorough and systematic geological survey of the whole Province. Whatever expense it might be, it would be certain to be amply repaid in the confidence which would be infused into mining operations when based upon accurate geological data. "The experience of many years," says Professor Hind, "sufficiently establishes the fact that unless plans for the development of metalliferous deposits, or for the working of economic materials, be based upon scientific research, showing 'the reason why,' it is only indulging in a fruitless expectation to suppose that foreign capitalists, or, indeed, any well informed or reasonably cautious man, who has not an opportunity of judging for himself, will give them either countenance or support."

As the control of mines and minerals will, by the act of Confederation, remain with each Province, we submit the mining regulations of New Brunswick, which, it will be observed, are very simple and easy of comprehension.

GRANTED LANDS.

1st Every mining license to be exempted from payment of royalty for three years from its date.

2nd. The rent of royalty on coal to be one shilling per chaldron; upon shale, sixpence per chaldron, and upon all metallic ores, except gold and silver, 2½ per cent. upon the value thereof when raised or dug.

3rd. On payment of a fee of five dollars, license to be granted to the owner of the soil, or his assignee, for coal or shale for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, and for other minerals for a period not exceeding fifty years.

4th. The rent or royalty to be paid quarterly to the Receiver-General or an agent appointed for that purpose by the Lieutenant-Governor. The statements on which such payments are to be made, to be on oath.

CROWN LANDS.

1st That the right of mining within a tract of one square mile, for the term of twenty-five years, be put up at a fixed rent of one shilling per chaldron on coal, and five per cent. on the value of all other minerals raised to be paid quarterly to the Receiver-General, or an agent for that purpose to be appointed by the Government.

2nd That the upset preference price paid on each lot be five pounds.

3rd That the preference money be paid and the ground selected in one hour after the time of sale, after which other lots will be offered, if required, in like manner.

4th That the lease contains a clause of renewal, or that the Government may resume and take the improvements at a valuation to be made by arbitrators mutually chosen by the Surveyor-General for the time being, and by the lessee or his assigns.

RECIPROCAL FREE TRADE.

(To the Editor of the Trade Review.)

SIR,—I have read with some interest the numerous letters which have appeared in your columns upon the much vexed question of Free Trade versus Protection.

It appears to me that Canada has now gained a position in which the interests of manufacturers and agriculturists are nearly identical—a point at which free traders and protectionists can, without sacrificing their principles, join hands, and by pulling together secure all the advantages of protection without having recourse to the evils which ensue from purely protective measures.

In starting I will venture with some diffidence to lay down a few principles for the consideration of your protectionist readers,

1st. That by difference in climate, in the national characteristics of the people, and in the great divisions of the earth's surface, the Almighty has so planned that no one locality shall be able to provide for all its wants from within itself.

2nd. That by this ordination, by the necessity for the interchange of products, commerce was born, and history has hailed her as the divinely appointed handmaid of civilization and Christianity.

3rd. That in the normal state of nations free trade, or the unrestricted interchange of commodities would of all policies be the one best adapted to the development of the resources of each—the adoption of any other policy being tantamount to a want of faith in the beneficent arrangements of Providence.

4th. That any policy in so far as it retards this interchange is an infraction of natural laws which must lead to pernicious results.

Having said this much, I have gone as far in principle as the staunchest free trader could desire. In the present abnormal state of nations, however, we have only to deal with things as we find them, and to use all such means as may lie within our reach, to restore the lost outline, and as long as the degenerate state of mankind necessitates the profession of arms, and makes its pursuit compatible with the most heroic Christianity, so long the errors of past and present legislation (on the part of other nationalities) in matters of commerce will constitute an equally sound excuse, for such modifications of free trade principles, as the existing conditions of our country may require.

Our present surroundings are fortunately such that we may at once enter upon a course of trade as free almost as that of England, without endangering existing manufactures, or retarding their future development.

The only want Canadian manufacturers feel is that of an extensive market. This point gained, they are in a position to throw down all the barriers which, while confined to the limited market of Canada, it has been necessary to raise in order to protect them from the surplus productions of other countries.

There is no branch of manufactures in which we cannot hold our own, as against all comers, provided our market shall be co-extensive with that of those against whom we compete.

Our policy, therefore, is to start with a full protection of all manufactures, coupled with an avowal of our intention to negotiate free trade treaties individually with every nation far or near who will give a *quid pro quo*.

With regard to European countries, the distance alone would be a sufficient protection for most of our manufactures. While with regard to the United States, her manufactures would be excluded from our markets, until by means of a treaty her statesmen consent to give our manufacturers free access to their own.

A society should be formed, consisting of leading commercial men and manufacturers of these provinces, and funds should be raised sufficient to send two or three agents to different quarters of the globe, who should make it their business to ascertain the wants of each locality, and also its advantages as a market in which to purchase. All information thus gathered should be sent to one central point, say the secretary of the association, by whom it could be distributed to each member periodically.

Armed with accurate information in this way, treaties could possibly be negotiated, by virtue of which Canada would admit free of duty such products as (in differing climates) would yield, in exchange for which they would admit such manufactures or commodities as we had special facilities for producing.

A series of reciprocal treaties thus effected, Canada would be the entrepot of western commerce, would be the cheapest country in which to buy or to live; and in thus providing a market abroad for her goods and manufactures would create a town population at home which would consume all those agricultural products which, in pursuing a judicious course of husbandry, the farmer finds it needful to raise, but which will not bear transportation to a great distance.

By pursuing such a course, our market would soon be one which our neighbours could not afford to despise, and a reciprocal treaty would soon be effected with them, which would be fair in its provisions, and would lead to a better feeling than now unfortunately exists between those who should be our best friends.

There are many manufactures for which they have special facilities; others again where we have the advantage. Is it impossible that a treaty should be