

Railway, and the visit of the Prince of Wales, initiated a new order of things ; and the surplus money of England always floating about for investment, began to find its way into our midst. Once get English or European capitalists interested in our mineral products ; let them see that labour and everything else is reasonable, and that the deposits of some at least of our minerals are of almost boundless extent ; let them see a prospect of fair open dealing, as of man to man, and I have no hesitation in saying that a connection could and would be secured with Britain, that would rivet still closer our ties to the mother country, and bind in still closer union the British race of the two continents.

The early days of mining in Canada, were blighted by the action of speculators—men whose business it was, not to work a mine, but to form a Company, sink a shaft a few feet, and then transfer the shares at a fictitious value to others, who again disposed of them in their turn as long as purchasers could be found, till the bubble burst. The very name of mining shares, was a terror to bank managers. Lanman who wrote so ably on the Copper regions of Lake Superior in his "Wanderings in the wilds of North America" speaks of the population of that district as consisting of dishonest speculators, and scheming adventurers. But the systematic course of operation now being carried on under the guidance of able mineralogists, with a view to realizing profits not not so much from the sale of shares in the mine, as from the minerals produced, is already yielding in most instances remunerative returns, and a source of wealth is opened which must swell the revenue of the country, and build up settlements in localities where otherwise the sterility of the soil forbade permanent improvements. Take for instance the Graphite mines I have described ; compare the section of county in which they are being worked now, with what it was a few years ago. Then the population were dependent upon the lumbering firms, who took the produce of the farmer at what prices they chose without consulting the producer, who was invariably in debt to them. Money was very little used, and the whole country bore an air of poverty and hardship. Go now through the same section, and a very different prospect is presented. Produce of all descriptions commands a high price in cash ; teams which had to be sent far up the rivers