

own country, and yet for a two-carat stone and not perfect at that, I was asked the moderate sum of \$7 by a prominent jeweller in Montreal. This stone would be worth in Ceylon about twenty five cents.

You will perhaps rely more on the weight of my statement if I read you an abstract from the Hand-book of Exhibits of Ceylon at the Colonial Exhibition: "Moonstones were credited to other countries in past ages, besides Ceylon, and were known to the ancients, who associated the moonlike lustre with the phases of the moon. These stones are found in large numbers in several places and are not of any considerable value; indeed the large quantities found prevent their commanding a high price." I do not mention this to throw any more reflection on the Moonstone, but merely as a comparison between the intrinsic value of it and the Quartz Asteria.

The taste for the one has been acquired; for the other it has yet to be acquired. You will say, if the stone with its attractive qualities is what you claim for it, why is it not more in demand? To which I would reply, that vendors of precious stones are not generally mineralogists, they therefore decline handling gems that are not known in the market until the demand on the part of the public forces them to do so; and again, the introduction of a new stone may perhaps seriously retard the sale of a large stock of gems on hand, not to mention the many vexatious questions that might be put by customers concerning its durability, etc.

Besides the above variety, the colourless transparent crystals of Quartz found in many parts of Canada will afford at times clear gems.

The brilliant crystals found in the neighbourhood of Quebec and known as Quebec Diamonds look well when mounted in their natural state, and when cut as brilliants are exceedingly bright.

The rose and smoky varieties of Quartz are occasionally met with, and according to Prof. Howe, some years ago, large crystals of the latter kind could be found in the stone heaps of the fields in the neighbourhood of Paradise Village, N.S. I have also seen some fine crystals of this variety from British Columbia, fit for cutting.

Rose Quartz although occurring at a number of places in Canada, has not yet to my knowledge been met with as a gem material.

The perfectly transparent variety, Rock crystal, referred to above