

in this Colony on the subject of the mineral formations in it, I forward herewith a specimen of iron ore which was only brought to him yesterday, but which he states to be of a valuable quality.

NEWFOUND-  
LAND.  
MINERAL  
RESOURCES.

He calls it "limonite iron" or "Brown Hematite," and he believes that it will average as much as 65 per cent. of iron.

The ore comes from the western coasts of the Island near Bonne Bay, but the amount of it is at present unknown.

I think it right, however, to forward it you at once, while such steps are being taken as you may consider best to make known to English capitalists the value of the mineral formations in this Colony.

I am, &c.

H. MURRAY.

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No. 6.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received February 3, 1896.)

28, Jermyn St., S.W.,

February 1, 1896.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo,\* on the subject of the mineral resources of Bell Island, Newfoundland, I have read Mr. Howley's report, and have the following observations to make regarding it.

Mr. Howley is a geological surveyor of long experience who has done great service in the exploration of Newfoundland. I would therefore put implicit trust in his observations contained in this report. From these observations it is clear that a large area of workable iron ore occurs in Bell Island; that owing to the low angle of inclination much of the ore can be worked at the surface and that the several seams are thick enough to be easily mined when surface workings are no longer practicable. It appears from the report that a company has already started to work the ore. If this company can profitably do so, and ship it from the mines, I think that other companies may probably be induced to take concessions. There is evidently ore enough to furnish workings for a number of companies for many years to come.

I am, &c.

ARCH. GEIKIE,

Director-General.

Report and relative documents returned herewith.

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\* No. 2.