

mineral and other phosphates, and it is not at all unlikely, that within a very short time, a new market will there be opened for the product of Canadian mines. As may be seen by our "quotations," there is no truth whatever in the reported drop in prices, and the number of enquiries that have reached us within the past few weeks from abroad is evidence that there is no falling off in the demand. Producers will be wise to consider well before placing their output at reduced prices with buyers who, though anxious to buy, are endeavouring to bear the market by circulating ridiculous reports that our mineral is becoming unpopular with manufacturers abroad. Nothing could be more incredible to those who are informed on the trans-Atlantic phosphate trade. Our mines are producing a high grade of mineral in large quantity and the output for shipment this year will exceed that of 1883 by several thousand tons. At the present time, as nearly as can be estimated, there has been forwarded to various points of shipment already from the mines in Ottawa County, 12,950 tons of first quality, and 1,300 tons of second quality. It is estimated that about 9,500 tons additional will be forwarded before the close of navigation, which will make a total of 22,450 tons for the year's output of first quality, and 1,300 tons of "seconds," or about 6,000 tons more than last year's shipments amounted to from the same district. From the Perth and Kingston mines, the output will probably reach 2,500 tons.

THE MINES.

Without one exception the phosphate mines of Ottawa county have improved during the past few months and are now capable of yielding a larger output than ever before.

In the Township of Portland West the *High Rock* mine gives employment to about 75 miners and work has been resumed in some of the old pits with astonishing results. In places where it was thought the deposits had given out, a small amount of dead work has exposed other extensive ore beds. The *Union Phosphate Mining and Land Company's* mines, in the same

Township, have steadily increased in value with development. This property is now thoroughly equipped for permanent operations, and, with proper management, it cannot fail to return a handsome annual profit to the company. The deposits are almost innumerable and are of a character indicating that they will become more extensive as work progresses. From 60 to 70 men are employed by this company and the quantity of phosphate that has been forwarded from its mines is of a very high grade and shows that attention has been given to careful dressing.

In Portland East the *Dominion Phosphate Company* is raising a fair quantity of very high grade mineral from its North Star Mine which is developing well and shows signs of becoming very productive. Mining operations are conducted by this company in a workmanlike manner that reflects credit upon the manager, Mr. W. H. Smith. The next mine of importance in this Township is the *Rapids* mine, owned by Mr. Allan, of Ottawa. All the shafts on this property show large bodies of phosphate at the bottom, and, where new ground has been opened, some fine deposits have been exposed. The property adjoining this mine, recently purchased by Mr. Allan, promises to become very valuable with development.

The *Emerald*, in Buckingham Township, the property of the Ottawa Phosphate Mining Company, is acknowledged the most valuable mine yet discovered in the district; the vastness of the deposits on this property cannot be realized but by personal observation. The entire mountain appears to be charged with mineral, and the ore beds are apparently inexhaustible. This mine will contribute largely to the annual production of Canadian phosphate.

In the Township of Templeton, McLaurin & Blackburn, Jackson Rae, Gillespie, Moffatt & Co., and J. H. Post have forwarded a fine lot of phosphate to the front and the mines are all looking and doing well. The Templeton, P.Q., Phosphate Mining Company, an American organization, have purchased property in this township and will begin operations on an extensive scale almost immediately.

In Wakefield, the mines have been yielding liberally. The *Gemmill*, the *Haldane* and the *Moore* have been greatly improved by the past winter's work, and are capable of producing a large quantity of high grade phosphate. Mr. Harris is also mining in Wakefield and has forwarded several hundred tons to Ironsides during the winter.

Phosphate Quotations.

Although the market price for Canadian apatite has not yet been definitely agreed upon, it is reasonable to base quotations on the most recently reported transaction. Three thousand eight hundred tons have been placed

in London during the past month at 1s. 3d. for 80 per cent. with a fifth of a penny rise. Later advices report buyers offering one shilling and two pence three farthings per unit for 80 per cent. There is steady demand in England, and the market is strengthening.

Opening of Navigation.

The ice has moved from the Riviere du Lievre and the steamboats are now plying between the landing at Buckingham Village and the Phosphate Mines adjacent to the river. This is unusually early for the opening of navigation, and will be a great convenience to mine owners and the who have occasion to visit the phosphate mines in the du Lievre section of Ottawa County.

It has been definitely decided by the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works to construct the lock at the Little Rapids of stone instead of timber as originally designed. This is a wise decision and will give a structure of an ornamental and permanent character. Work will be started early in the season and hurried on to completion.

BEAUCE GOLD MINES.

Reports recently received from the district go to show that gold mining is not unlikely to become of as great importance in Beauce as it has been at any time in the history of the Californian and Australian diggings.

The Gilbert River Gold Mining Company is doing good work and raising gold in quantity at large profit.

At the Allan and Humphrey Mine, in St. George Concession, the prospects are very bright. The dirt now being raised from the shaft carries gold plainly visible to the naked eye, and as the level is yet some feet above gravel, it is a certainty that when the gravel is reached gold will be found in large quantities. A rumour came to us last month that the miners had already struck rich gravel, but that is incorrect, as they are yet a few feet above it. A large quantity of dirt will be washed in the spring, and its value, which is known to be high, will be established. The present appearance of this mine promises a rich harvest to its owners, and the excitement already created by the prospects threatens to bring a large influx of prospectors and miners to the district during the approaching summer. Messrs. Allan and Humphrey have been fortunate in securing extensive additional areas adjoining their original property and on the same lead. The pluck and perseverance they have displayed in pushing ahead with mining operations under adverse circumstances deserves to be richly rewarded, and there is no doubt now that it will be.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINES.

(Special to the CANADIAN MINING REVIEW.)

SILVER CITY, N. W. T.,

April 5th, 1884.

Some of the silver mines are being continuously and vigorously worked. The "Queen of the Hills," the "Home Stake," and the "Henley" work day and night shifts with most satisfactory results, and operations are about to be started at the "Hetherington," which, if report be correct, is likely to develop into a mine of great value. The provisional directors of the company owning this last mentioned property are: Hugh J. Macdonald, President; W. Scott, Vice-President and General Manager; C. G. Ballentyne, Secretary; Hon. C. P. Brown, T. G. Orton, M.P., J. Stewart Tupper, J. F. Field, L. L. Bedson, Wm. Clougher, Wm. Paisley, John Hetherington. The charter will shortly be issued.

A miners' protective union is to be formed here in a few days, with Mr. Bleecker, of Calgary, as its solicitor. The objects of the union will be the discussion of the mining industry of the district, mutual improvement and protection, assisting the Government in matters affecting the interests of miners, and, by co-operating with the agents and other government representatives, establishing mining in the North-West Territories on a practical and equitable basis. Such an organization is invaluable to any mining community, and the people of Silver City are not slow to act in matters which are likely to advance their prosperity.

The latest despatch received from Silver City announces a rich gold discovery quite near the town, and that great excitement prevails in consequence.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the vicinity of Kicking Horse Pass, to the east of the Cascade range, and that portion of the province contiguous to the Valley of the Fraser River, miners and prospectors report the recent discovery of valuable deposits of gold, silver, copper, iron, coal and other economic minerals. The cost of transporting provisions into the interior has prevented rapid development and location of mining camps, but the opening of the railway to the summit of the Rockies on the east, and to the head of Kamloops on the west, will have the effect of stimulating the mining industry to a wonderful degree. Already extensive preparations are being made by miners and prospectors in Victoria to proceed to the mountains so soon as the season is sufficiently advanced to admit of their so doing. The Local Legislature at its recent session amended the mining laws, which