

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1893.

AUSTRALIAN SCENES.

CLIMBING THE MOUNTAINS OF THE GOLD COUNTRY.

Trees Surpassing Those of California—Adventure with a Diago—A Diago's Hut—The Beautiful Lyre Bird—A Remarkable Government Road.

Having frequently referred to the large trees of the Australian Alps, I trust I may be excused this digression for a short description of them. It used to be conceded, and possibly believed to a large extent still, that California produces the largest trees in the world, the Wellingtonia Gigantia; such is not the case. The Gum tree, of the genus Eucalyptus of Australia, equals it in girth and surpasses it in height. In London I once saw the bark of the lower part of a Californian tree set up to represent its size. It measured 27 feet in diameter, if I remember rightly. There are just as large in Australia, but with this difference the bark of the former is a foot thick and that of the latter one inch, which would give nearly two feet more of solid wood to the Australian tree of equal girth. On continuing my journey from Woods point to Melbourne I was induced to take a short cut through the mountains, by which a saving of 100 miles could be effected. The distance from Melbourne by the coach road was over 200 miles, by a straight course the space could be reduced nearly one half. The government, with that object in view and also of making a road for wheeled traffic, had a road way cut through the bush for 60 miles over a country more heavily timbered and with the tallest trees, I had as yet seen, ranging from two to three hundred feet in height. There were exceptional trees, still higher, bordering on an elevation of 500 feet, those I had not an opportunity of seeing.

This new road way commenced near the Yarra river, about 50 miles from Melbourne, and terminated abruptly on the top of a high range, within two miles of Woods-point. To reach it from the town required a steady climb of two hours up a zig-zag path on a mountain slope. It was the forenoon of a lovely midsummer day that found me at the beginning of this road way, which was cut with as distinctly marked a course, through the bush as a mown sward through a field of grass. It was nearly a 100 feet in width, cleanly graded, free from any obstruction but at that time no formation of a road had been attempted. On each side was a wall of fallen trees and underwood. It had recently been completed but travel had not then commenced. Though interesting, it was the most lonely journey I had ever made. The first day I did not meet a being and on the second day, only one solitary traveler. I was alone, and as I rode along, as through a lane with high trees on either side and shut out from the world, the feeling of loneliness was oppressive. Occasionally, by a turn in the road, I would catch a glimpse of the country beyond. Also of my position; that I was following along a high ridge with a gradual descent. Such was my course for two days until the low country was reached. I had been told when starting that by night I would arrive at a newly built hotel with good accommodations. Such proved true barring the accommodations. The house was about finished but not occupied. The men, as I supposed, had ceased work for the day, but where they were I knew not. There stood a well-finished bush hotel, built of hand sawn lumber, also a good stable near but not a living soul in hearing. I rode around and "cooed" but no response came. Through a clearing opposite, I could see that the sun was about half an hour high. What was to be done? My horse, as well as myself, had not tasted food since morning. To return—that would never do. I must push on and trust to luck,—again to dive into the dark forest.

The sun was soon hidden from sight, and only a narrow strip of sky over head was to be seen through the opening of the trees. All was solitude. Not a leaf was stirring. All nature seemed at rest. While speculating in my mind as to the uncertainty of the night before me I was suddenly aroused from my reverie by my horse stopping short and pricking up his ears in alarm. I looked and there was a dingo, leisurely crossing the road, a short distance ahead. He stopped, turned his head and gazed at us for a few minutes. "Go on Jack, you fool!" I said to my horse. "Don't you know that the only animal to fear in Australia is man?" After satisfying his curiosity he, the dingo, continued on his way and entered the barriade of brush on the roadside and disappeared. He was the color of our red fox, in size and appearance of an Equimau dog, with a strain of wolf but with shorter hair. This dingo, or native wild dog, is the terror of sheep raisers and is thought not to be a native of the country, being so unlike animals peculiar to Australia. Their howl at night is terrifying. The siren of the steamer "Harlow" is music in comparison.

As I proceeded darkness set in very soon without much twilight, and such utter darkness. I could not see the horse's head, and so had to trust to him implicitly for the choice of way, and were it not for the sight of an occasional star and the dim light of the sky, seen through the opening above, I could not have told whether I was going forward or not. The nocturnal animals, which abound there, were out in force. I could hear them jumping and escaping through the brush but could not see them. After a two hours ride along this dark lane and when about to visit my wrath on the man who advised this short cut to Melbourne, I was made glad by seeing a light at no great distance.

As I drew near, I could see that it was no deserted camp fire but a veritable habitation—no hut or oasis in the desert. My arrival was announced by two noisy dogs. I was welcomed by the landlord and his wife, who were as pleased to see a stranger from the outside world, as I was to see them on so opportune an occasion. They were a remnant of the explorers, or rather the road cutters and had decided to remain to be in readiness for the rush of travel that was so late in commencing. How warmly I commended them on their far-seeing wisdom, particularly when I learned that the next house was fifteen miles further on. My horse was stabled, tied to a sapling in the open air, and regaled with oats and chaff, chopped oat hay, and I, to wholesome bush fare, less the delicacies of the season.

Shortly after leaving next morning I entered a belt of timber, which for the height and symmetrical proportions of the trees and for number to a given space was worth days of travel to behold. The soil was deep and covered with a luxuriant growth of vegetation, from which sprung trees from two to ten feet in diameter, shooting up as straight as arrows for 100 feet without a branch, then for another one hundred feet and more to the spreading branches at the top. So prolific was the soil that 40 or 50 of those of the larger growth could be counted to the acre, and as many more, of a younger growth, of from 100 to 150 feet in height, still more delicate and graceful in their proportions, all striving simultaneously to advance to the sky, then to take on stature at maturity as the striding youth does when he arrives at man's estate. For five miles this wonderful forest continued. At times the course of the road would deviate in deference to one of those monster trees. So great was the quantity of stuff to be removed that the barricade averaged from twenty to thirty feet high on each side.

The scene was one of grandeur and awe inspiring. At times I would stop my horse and gaze upward in admiration. It seemed as if there was another atmosphere up there. The tree tops were swaying gracefully to the breeze, whilst at the base there was a solemn stillness. It was difficult for one to associate in one's mind a connection between the apex and base of those stately monarchs, so widely separated were their relative points.

The birds and insects were in motion amidst the interminable labyrinth of parasites, creepers, vines, ferns, etc., within friendly distance of mother earth, but away aloft there was nothing animate to be seen, not even the aspiring cockatoo which is a high flyer; though I am inclined to think that the cockatoo, as well as other birds of the low country, do not visit those mountains. And now I can recall to mind the fact that the feathered tribe seen in the Australian Alps were of a distinct species to those so common in other parts of Victoria. Here the Alps is the home of the Lyre Bird, named so on account of the remarkable resemblance of its beautiful tail to the ancient lyre. This bird is better known there as the mocking bird, and justly so. Its powers of imitation are certainly marvellous. It is a very shy bird. One may hear its well-known note every day for months, but never get a sight of it. I was once favored by an intimate acquaintance with a pair, having discovered a nest and watched the development of its one egg to a fledged bird, and I once had an opportunity of listening to its imitative powers. It was on Crooked River. We were out prospecting, and camped in a very secluded spot, miles from any settlement. Early one morning I was called by my partner to come and listen to the mocking bird. As we approached stealthily through the bush one would have imagined that all the birds of the forest were holding a camp-meeting or jubilee. When near, we cautiously peered through the branches, and there beheld the author of all this melody. The slanting rays of the morning sun fell on a small patch of loose earth, and there was the bird, in shape like an English pheasant, though a little larger, and with longer legs. It was a male bird as we knew by its tail, as the hen bird like the peahen is not endowed with the tail appendage which is the pride, also besetting sin of her con-specific mate. He was scratching, picking and spreading his tail in self-admiration as would a peacock in his proudest moments, and all the time keeping up a running imitation of the many native birds from a loud screech or shrill whistle-down to the twitter and chirp of the little wren, and changing from one to the other so rapidly that it was difficult to follow him.

J. E. WILSON.

The smallest drop of ink, falling like dew upon a thought, produces that which may make thousands, perhaps millions think.

AT WORK UNDER THE SEA.

THE GEOLOGY AND MINES OF EASTERN CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

Not recently Described in a Paper Read before the Natural History Society of New Brunswick, Nov. 7, by Geoffrey Bond, C. E.—Many Facts About the Coal Areas.

During my summer's stay in Cape Breton my occupation confined me to the parish of Sydney, and indeed to the eastern part of that small division of the island. My remarks will be generally confined to that district and I shall try to describe the natural features of the country and structure of the underlying rocks, with an account of the various mines.

Of the natural features of Cape Breton, the most curious and striking are the salt water lakes of the interior and northern eastern coast; the chief of these, the Bras d'Or lakes, afford a water way from the northern part of the island to within a mile of the southern coast. This short mile was all that was left to be done by man, as it now is in the St. Peter's canal, to complete the channel. Midway in their length the lakes are greatly contracted—that is at the Grand Narrows or Straits of Barra, where the Cape Breton railway crosses on a fine bridge. The water is here about 70 feet deep. The northern part of the island is high and mountainous, and the scenery is said to be very fine. It is settled only at points along the coast, and abounds in valuable timber, which is not yet available for want of harbors. The coal region to the east is low and undulating, in no part more than 250 feet above sea level. Bays are numerous and extend far into the land in a general south westerly direction. Three such bays occur in the district I visited, namely: Indian Bay and Cow Bay. They do not form good harbors, being shallow and exposed by their direction to the worst storms. Indian Bay and Glace Bay are crossed by sand-bars, which enclose extensive salt water lakes, while another such lake is in course of formation at Cow Bay. The brooks near form themselves ravines in the soft strata which prevail, and where their banks are clothed with maple and birch, the short views up and down the streams are delightful.

Of a different nature is the stern scenery of the high and rocky headlands against which the sea makes ceaseless warfare, fresh and strong with the might of the Atlantic. The bays between give a more peaceful aspect to the coast, with their sand beaches and glistening lakes. Other than these views, the country has none of interest, except to the commercial eye, that sees here and there on the low hills the smoke of mines, or the tops of some row of cottages.

Cliffs extend all around the coast except about the low shores of the bays, and are very fine at the different promontories where they are as much as 80 feet high. Near North Head they are continued at sea in the Flint Islands, about two miles from land.

In the last few years fire has made ravages in the woods of the interior, from Sydney east as far as Cow Bay, leaving exposed the barren and rocky soil between blackened trunks of trees. About Glace Bay Brook and Sand Lake are wide, mossy barrens where the railway keeps the same grade for a mile with scarcely any cut or fill.

The rocks of the district consist of but one formation: the Carboniferous; and the lowest beds are the Lower Carboniferous Limestones. But further west, about the head of Sydney harbour the Basal Conglomerate crops up from beneath them and in turn rests on ancient Crystalline rocks of the Coxheath beds of Laurentian age. The Lower Carboniferous Limestone consists of thick beds of Argillaceous and Calcareous shales with bands of limestone sometimes containing marine fossils. Red and grey sandstone occurs frequently, especially towards the summit.

On the east side of Sydney Harbour in the area occupied by the town of Sydney, a section of the limestone formation is exposed but imperfectly (only 880 feet of the measures are visible,) for a fault has broken through the strata depressing all to the South West, a distance of probably 900ft., so that crossing the line, we come suddenly upon rocks of the next higher division—the Millstone Grit. This great fault runs across the district from Sydney to Miramichi a stretch of over ten miles south easterly and from Sydney also it runs in the direction of Sydney River, south westerly, where its limits are not certainly defined. With the exception of the limestone at Sydney above mentioned, and the coal measures, coloured black on the map, the Millstone Grit occupies the whole area east of Sydney River and Harbour. Its rocks are exposed in their entire thickness on the shores of Sydney Harbour to the east and in the cliffs of Miramichi Bay on the western side of the district. Around Sydney they consist of coarse grey sandstones with occasional patches of argillaceous shale and coal. The most important coal bed of this side is the Millstone Grit lying 840ft. below the top of the millstone grit. It consists of six feet of

MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON & ILLISON

Have made arrangements with the manufacturers to place in this market the Carpets referred to in the above article, at prices very little more than half those usually asked for the same class of goods.

good coal divided by a parting of shale. Besides this workable seam there are several others cropping out in the country back of Sydney, averaging less than two feet of coal. One of these, on the Mire Road is interesting from having afforded a good collection of fossil plants, some of the ferns having their fructification preserved—which is rare among fossils, and also remains of insects of the dragonfly and cockroach kind.

In Sydney Harbour these millstone grit rocks are generally coarse sandstones, and their bedding is often interrupted and distorted showing the action of strong currents from various directions which would wash away the already deposited sand irregularly and during the next calm in the waters, sediment falling, takes the form of the rough bottom, producing the irregular structure in the rocks as we now see it.

In the Mire Bay section there are evidences of local subsidence and formation in quieter waters, for the total thickness is much greater—about 5700 feet against 4000 at Sydney Harbour, the shales are thicker and more argillaceous and coal seams more numerous.

Again, something is to be learnt from the material of the millstone grit, for, while to the west near the crystalline rocks of St. Anne's mountain, it is composed largely of red felspar and quartz pebbles, on Mire Bay the underlying lower carboniferous has probably supplied material for the red shales and sandstones which predominate here.

The fine section at Mire extends over a length of ten miles and in this distance eleven seams of coal crop out, varying in thickness from one inch to two feet, except one—the Truay seam, which has about four feet of good coal and has at one time been mined. In the centre of the district and almost at the summit of the Millstone Grit is another—the Lorrway seam, which from its extent over a large area, partakes of the character of the coal-measure seams. It will be touched upon in speaking of the Glace Bay coal field.

Over the interior of the country occupied by the millstone grit, rock sections are uncommon, though the overlying soil is generally thin. Where forest fires have occurred the land has a most desolate appearance, the top layer of vegetable mould being destroyed, leaving a sandy and clayey soil filled with fragments of the rocks below, sometimes of such size and strewn about so thickly as to afford a quarry; and one of the contractors made short roads into the burnt land, and got a good deal of his stone from such sources. The small stones and finer material are blatched from the original grey and red of the parent rock by the roots of plants and decaying vegetable matter, which increases the barren appearance of the soil.

The next and highest division of the carboniferous is the Coal Measures. It overrules the Millstone Grit conformably and no fine division can be made between the two in cliff sections, where strata of the two divisions are continuous. But when seen from a distance the distinction is well marked by the great preponderance of coarse grey measures in the older division and the diversity of color and regular succession of strata in the newer.

The Coal Measures of Eastern Cape Breton occupy four basins or synclinal folds of the strata, separated by three anticlines or upward bends, from two of which the coal measures have been denuded, leaving the Millstone Grit exposed.

The basins of these of Cow Bay, Glace Bay, Sydney Harbour and the Grand Narrows are north-east, and the connection well seen here between the physical features of the country, and the arrangement of the rocks beneath; for weakness in the strata consequent upon the folding, have led to the formation of drainage channels, some basins from which the basins are named and which run in the same general north-easterly direction.

Besides the dips in opposite directions, a general dip seawards that is in a north-east direction, which limits the area underlain by coal seams on land, causing them

Excerpt from the Birmingham Daily Post, Tuesday, October 10, 1893

with dearer labor and material than in this country, and all the costs of production higher, it is certainly not very easy without enlightenment to understand how they can be sold in this country, with freight and middlemen charges added, at less prices than those asked for similar English carpets. The explanation, it will be seen, is twofold. In the first place, the carpets are not quite what they seem, being sold in the wearing properties of Karpet and do not possess the quality of the goods of the United States. The condition of manufacturing in now than with us, owing to the failures and financial difficulties which are interwoven with the general commercial depression; and the consequence is that in the carpet trade, as in other branches of industry, there is a great deal of machinery idle and many thousands of hands out of employment. The mills where these newly-imported carpets are made, seem to be in a state of depression. At the same time, we are told, have been idle for two months past owing to the depression. At the same time the mill-owners have found themselves burdened with enormous stock of carpets, for which they could find no sale in the ordinary state of trade. Under the pressure probably of pecuniary exigencies they tried first of all to dispose of the carpets by auction in the United States, but these forced sales caused much opposition among the regular dealers that the mill-owners were compelled to reconsider their position and they ultimately decided to seek a market for their goods abroad and fixed upon England as a special "dumping" ground. They are probably assisted to some extent in this venture by the American system of bounties or rebates on exported goods. The rebate, in theory, represents only the carpets are composed, but in practice it is so liberally calculated as to constitute an appreciable premium or bounty upon the goods exported. Hence, doubtless, the lower prices asked for the carpets in this country than in the United States. Karpet manufacturers, we learn, are quite alive to the gravity of the competition which is thus sprung upon them, but they contend that their carpet will not equal that of the English carpet in the next place, the supply is limited, and when the present stocks are exhausted there is no likelihood of their being replenished. In order to meet the competition, however, whilst raising the standard of their regular goods, English makers are introducing others of a "somewhat cheaper description, which they think will be more readily accepted at present, as being below the standard of English requirements; and the makers of Brussels and Wilton carpets, though not directly affected at present, are following suit. There is no reason to suppose that the American competition has "come to stay," for the conditions of manufacture are so much more enormous in the United States than in this country that the competition could only be carried on at a loss.

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Managers of the Manufacturers to place in this market the Carpets referred to in the above article, at prices very little more than half those usually asked for the same class of goods.

I'm one of Oak Hall's salesmen. You've often said you didn't read ad's—wouldn't; but you've read me this time. You don't want anything?—never? Yes you do—will. Remember, when you do, this little talk I had with you, and that we have just as good clothes now as then; for man and boy. Now, I haven't been impudent, have I? I'll try and manage to see you again some time.

OAK HALL, King St., of The Corner of Big German St. Shop.

SCOVIL, FRASER & CO., ST. JOHN.

to run out at no great distance from the shore. But there is probably a far larger area under the sea where the deeper beds may be worked.

I have been over two of these basins, having passed the summit in the tract between Bridgeport and Cow Bay. But there is a great deal to be seen there in a mining way, for in that area 10 miles long by four broad there are nine mines in operation, all leased by the Dominion Coal Co., as well as four others that have not been worked for some time.

The chief seams have been traced and found to be continuous through most of the basins though varying greatly in thickness. The most valuable of the district forms the main seam at North Sydney, Harbour seam at Glace Bay and Block House at Cow Bay. It is nine feet in thickness at Cow Bay, six feet in Glace Bay Basin, about the same at Sydney, whence westward it decreases to three feet and less in thickness. This seam is distinguished both at Cow Bay and the east side of Sydney Harbour by curious masses of the overlying rock found inserted in the coal, often wedge-shaped and pointed downwards but sometimes thirty feet in thickness, which being cut through the coal is found in its proper position on the other side.

The Sydney main seam, which has been mined since 1785, was first opened by a shaft 200 feet deep and the coal extracted for a convenient distance around it. The present shaft, called the "New Winnings," is 681 feet, the deepest in the whole district. It is situated about a mile and a half from the crop of the seam and near the sea to command the submarine area from which most if not all the coal is now obtained, though there is much more left in the land area than has been taken out.

There is about 500 feet of rock between the sea bottom and the coal, thus affording perfect safety of working, especially as the pillars are left larger as the coal gets deeper and more weight is to be sustained. It is the only seam of the district yet mined to any extent under the sea.

In 1872 this single seam was estimated to contain 38,300,000 tons of coal in the land area of North Sydney, and for a couple of miles out to sea. Since then 4,000,000 tons at the outside have been extracted, leaving over 34,000,000 yet available. Besides this there are two other seams of 5 and 6 feet in thickness, which have been worked to a limited extent; but the main seam is sufficient to supply present demands and is of somewhat superior quality so these remain as stores for the future. On the eastern side of Sydney Harbour a continuation of the main seam is worked at Victoria Mine.

When speaking of the Cow Bay and Glace Bay basins I shall describe the workings of the Block House and Harbour seam, continuations of the Sydney main. While the chief coal beds are continuous in the different basins, each basin does not include all. Thus at Cow Bay all above the Block House are cut off by denudation and have no exposures in the land area, while at Glace Bay one important seam occurs above the Block House level and westward where the higher beds of the coal measures are still exposed in the cliffs, there are three good seams above the horizon of the Sydney main.

For the same reason the thickness of the measures and contained coal varies, for example at Cow Bay there is a total thickness 1,050 feet with 28 feet of coal in beds

of available thickness, while in the Legeran tract of the Sydney Basin, which has the most complete section of the measures, the total thickness is 1,640 feet with 46 feet of workable coal.

(Concluded next week)

WHAT JUDGE DAILEY SAW.

He Believes in the Possibility of All the Phenomena of Spiritualism.

It is my belief that nearly everything has been done—that is to say, I believe in the possibility of all of the phenomena claimed by the spiritualists. I have seen what to my mind was an indisputable manifestation of nearly every phase of phenomena claimed by spiritualists. I have seen independent slate-writing. Mr. Keller and Mr. Hermann, the magicians, may criticize this phenomena as they see fit, but I undertake to say that it is absolutely impossible for them to imitate it or produce anything like it under the same conditions. If they will come here, and allow me to take my own slates, and put them down on that table, one on top of the other, a piece of slate pencil between the two, the slates held together with my hand on top of it—I will write on those slates while I am holding them there I will give them one thousand dollars. But they must not touch them.

I have seen slate-writing done under such conditions. Once the writing was over the name of my father, and another time over the signature of a deceased sister of my wife. There were two separate hand-writings. My father had been dead for about thirty years, and died a long distance from the place where this phenomenon presented itself. My wife's sister had been dead fifteen years, and it was utterly impossible for the medium in this case to have known the name of either.

Then I have seen a hand produced in the broad sunlight without the aid of a cabinet, in a room containing five windows, the blinds being open. On one occasion I was sitting at a table with two other persons. I have seen a naked hand without an arm to it produced before me. In the presence of five persons I have seen unexpectedly right close to my side, without any cabinet, or any preparation, or any idea that there was going to be anything like that phenomenon presented while we were sitting at a table—I have seen the form of a human being slowly shape itself from a sort of etherized substance of lightish colour until it took on the form of a person, with a body, limbs and head, finally disappearing with the rapidity of lightning.

I have seen that done five times—once in the evening when the light was sufficiently bright to read a newspaper—Judge Dailey's experiences, in N. Y. Sun.

Only Americanized.

A German lady residing in America was about to pay a visit to the Fatherland. Desiring to take her little niece a suitable present, something thoroughly American, she carefully thought the matter over, and concluded to buy a piece of crochery which was previously adorned with pictures of American scenery, public buildings in Washington, etc. When she came to pack up her things and happened to take another look at the plate, she detected to her surprise, the fatal words "Made in Germany" burnt in the enamel.