

1861-75—REVIEW—1861-75.

TOTAL YIELD.—The discovery which led to a general search for gold, and founded the Gold Mining Industry, was made by JOHN GERHARD PULSIFER, a farmer with exploring proclivities, in May 1860, at Mooseland, Old Tangier. Actual mining was not commenced until so late in the year that its statistical history may be considered as beginning with 1861, from which period to the close of 1875 a yield valued at £992,291 has been obtained, without making allowance for quantities not reported amounting, perhaps, to ten per cent. of the whole. Of this gross yield £973,869½ was derived from vein-stuff, £12,531½ from alluvial washings, and £5,890½ from crushed cement. The largest declared aggregate yield in one year was £109,253 for 1867; the largest annual yield of any separate district £57,617 for Waverley, in 1865; the largest annual yield of any single mine (not including a large amount known to have been stolen) £34,910, from the *Tudor*, at Waverley, in 1865; and the largest bar of gold ever cast was 1200 ozs.—£4800—in June of the same year, from the same mine, then the property of Mr. LEOPOLD BRENNER. The largest return in proportion to the workings is £100,000, from the *Wellington* Mine, the greater part of which was obtained from a 13-inch vein, opened 180 feet in length to 570 feet in depth. The largest district yield is £296,000 obtained at Sherbrooke, mostly within an area of 40 acres.

ALLUVIAL MINES.—With the exception of beach washings at the Ovens, which were prosecuted during the years 1861 and 1862, alluvial mining has been almost wholly neglected. Professor B. SILLIMAN and Mr. CAMPBELL incline to the opinion that the arduous *debris* of this Province have been swept beneath the ocean; but MRS. J. W. DAWSON, J. A. PHILLIPS, T. STERRY HUNT, the late AUGUSTE MICHEL, and A. R. C. SELWYN, who, in the succession named, have examined and reported on this region, consider that systematic search for alluvial gold might well repay the prospector.

AVERAGE PER TON.—The fourteen years' mean—there are no data for 1861—from the crushing of 315,025 colonial tons is equal to 17 dwts. 0·66 grs. per avoirdupois ton. The highest district average for the whole period is 2 ozs. 14 dwt. 2 grs. for Montagu, from the crushing of 5844 tons (of 2240 lbs.) of quartz; the lowest 8 dwts. 22 grs. from 2984 tons crushed in the Unclassified Districts. As concentration is not practised in any one mill, the above averages imperfectly represent the full gold contents of the quartz crushed. The average for Victoria, Australia, for 1874, was 11 dwt., 20·51 grs.

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER MAN.—The mean yearly average for all districts amounts to £121 7s. 0d. The highest yearly average for the Province is £158 5s. for 1873; the lowest £38 4s. for 1862. (The average for Victoria, Australia, in 1874 was £99 8s. 3·07d.) The highest district average for the whole period is £179 0s. 6d. for Sherbrooke.

NUMBER OF MINERS.—The total number of days' labour declared for fourteen years is 2,489,470, equal to the number expended in *fifty-nine days* in Victoria in the third quarter of 1875. The greatest number of miners employed in any one year by the whole Province was 887 in 1863, and by one district 317—in Waverley—in 1866. The daily provincial mean for the whole period is 570.

QUARTZ CRUSHED.—The total quantity crushed amounts in round numbers to 231,272 tons British, or no more than has been treated in five years in *one mine* of comparatively small extent in Australia.

MILLS.—At the close of the year 1875 there were 24 mills standing, but not half in constant operation. They average nearly ten stamps apiece, and their aggregate capacity is about 250 tons per 24 hours, or, if the quartz were previously comminuted in a Blake's crusher, 100,000 to 120,000 tons a year.

MINT VALUE.—From 38 assays of ingots, weighing in the aggregate 3,508 ozs., by the New York Mint, (obligingly reported by the Bank of Montreal and Messrs. W. L. Lowell & Co., bankers and bullion dealers.) and two analyses made and cited by Professor O. C. Marsh, the mean fineness of Nova Scotia gold would appear to be 948·3 thousandths, worth £4 0s. 6½d. per oz., and the average for each district as follows:—Sherbrooke 947·5; Waverley 945·6; Renfrew 942·7; Wine Harbor 961·6; Montagu 959·2; Oldham 960·2; Tangier 952·8, 981·3*; Stormont 921·5, 944·0;† Uniacke 930·2; Ovens 920·4*; Fifteen Mile Stream 944·5; Lawrencetown 944·0; Gay's River 960·6; Caribon 944·7. The valuation in the accompanying tables is therefore within fair bounds.

* Prof. Marsh. † Mr. R. G. Fraser.