

of the coal, its unlimited quantity, the facilities for obtaining fuel, and the conveniences of water power, are such as to lead one to suppose, that any vigorous prosecution of the work must result favorably to those interested. At present everything is lying idle, and, what is worse, idleness necessarily implies decay. The machinery, engine, &c., cannot fail to suffer from neglect, and, indeed, already show very evident signs of a want of proper care. To illustrate to what extent losses are being endured, I may state that there are from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred cords of wood, lying close to the work, already corded and ready for use, yet fast passing to decay. They have been in this condition, I believe, for some two years or more! It certainly seems as if a little more energy and enterprise, on the part of those interested in the works, would lead to favorable results. It is *not* creditable to the citizens of New Brunswick to allow their opportunities of developing their resources, and of reaping the advantages to be derived therefrom, to slip out of their hands into those of foreigners, as has already been done in too many cases. The Albert Mines for instance, in themselves a source of unbounded wealth, and at one time owned almost entirely by inhabitants of New Brunswick, was but a source of constant dispute and loss, so long as it remained in their hands, until at last it passed from their grasp, and is now annually carrying *out* of the Province, a clear gain of many thousands of pounds.

There can be no doubt, that the supply of coal, in the vicinity of these oil-works is very great, and its quality excellent. There is no good reason, therefore, why, with a little more energy and enterprise, it should not prove a source of wealth and profit to those immediately engaged in working it, and also to the Province at large. Even if it yielded only *one-half* the produce yielded by the true Albertite, it could not fail, I should think, of giving profitable results. At all events, why let the present supply of coal and fuel go to waste? why let fifteen hundred cords of wood decay in the open air, rather than perform their office under the retorts of the oil works? One thing is certain; if these mines and manufactures are not worked by New Brunswickers, they will be by foreigners. Parties from the United States are already acquainted with, and interested in this locality; and I feel no doubt that if the present condition of affairs is allowed much longer, it will pass into their hands, and that the Caledonia works will share the fate of the Albert Mines.*

NORTON LEAD LODE.

Returning from Salisbury to Saint John, I stopped upon the way for a few hours, to examine a locality in the vicinity of Norton, King's County, to which I had been directed by Mr. Edward Allison, of Saint John. This locality contains a small amount of lead ore.

*NOTE.—I trust that no one interested in the Caledonia works will misconceive the object of the above remarks, or take offence at the freedom with which I have ventured to criticise the condition of affairs at this place. It is quite possible, that other reasons than any known to me, have caused the present inaction, and reasons in every way rational. I have only desired to express the convictions forced upon me as a stranger, by a casual visit to the spot. I am wholly unacquainted even with the names of the parties interested.