

ent salt are deposited. The Hudson Bay Company send a boat there every autumn, and the finest of the salt is shovelled into sacks and brought away. Professor Macoun says: "Men who have been there told me that the *salt is of unknown depth and extent*, and it is supposed that there are vast deposits at an inconsiderable depth below the surface." Another salt region which takes half a day to cross, is reported at about midway on the portage between Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes. Near Clearwater Lake salt springs were met with by the same explorer, which he says "possess a very strong brine."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Mention is made in the Geological Survey Reports, 1875-76, of nitre in the form of a white granular powder existing in calcareous tufa on the Chilcotin and Nazco rivers; analysed by Mr. Hoffman it was found to consist of potassic nitrate, with nitrate of soda and traces of sulphate and chloride. Admiral or Salt Spring Island, on the south-west side of Shoal Bay, Vancouver Island, possesses several salt springs, giving it one of the names by which it is known. The water is said by Mr. Forbes, quoting from Mr. Pemberton, to contain 3,446 grains of salt to the Imperial gallon. Little is known, however, respecting its capabilities for use.

PETROLEUM.

This mineral product, known also as kerosene, or coal oil, affords a trade which ranks amongst the foremost of Canadian industries, employing capital to the extent of at least \$10,000,000. The home consumption alone is estimated at upwards of 6,000,000 gallons.

ONTARIO.—The region in this Province where crude petroleum has been and is obtained is of considerable area, the section principally worked being the westerly part of the Province. Bothwell, in the county of Kent, and Enniskillen and Petrolia, in Lambton, are the largest oil producing districts, where it is obtained at a depth of from 400 to 500 feet. The formation in which it is found is a carboniferous limestone overlaid by clays and gravels, which latter also hold the oil rising from the limestone. A petroleum spring exists in the Manitoulin Island, on Lake Huron, rising from the Utica limestone; this, however, is not utilized.

QUEBEC.—In the vicinity of Gaspé petroleum has been observed rising from the Devonian rocks. Near Douglastown a petroleum spring