

MINING—Continued.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF MINES.

IRON MINING.—During the year 1885, the operations at the Mines of the Steel Company of Canada were continued as usual. Large quantities of the white "Spathose" ore were extracted from the west mines. Promising bodies of ore were opened up to the east of the Folly Mountain Mines.

At Bridgeville, on the East River of Pictou, further explorations were made on the Saddler area, by Mr. J. H. Bartlett and Mr. R. P. Fraser, of Pictou. Mr. William Grant also mined about 80 tons of limonite, part of which was shipped to the Londonderry furnaces.

GYPSUM.—Operations were continued as usual in the quarries in the Windsor district, but the exported tonnage was less than in the preceding year. The Messrs. McCurdy of Laddeck, shipped some plaster from St. Ann's Harbor, and some work was done by Mr. C. A. DeWolf, at the Lennox Passage quarries.

ANTIMONY.—The operations at the Rawdon Antimony Mine have been steadily continued during the year. A large and well timbered shaft has been sunk near the road, clear of the vein; and through it all future operations of pumping and winding will be carried on. The returns show that discoveries of Antimony ore are reported from Kentville, and from the Melrose district, Guysboro' County.

COPPER.—During the past season Mr. M. F. Eagar did some work on a promising deposit of copper pyrites near Pinkietown, Antigonish County. Dr. Johnstone and Mr. J. McNeil proved some rich ore in the same locality.

At Coxheath, near Sydney, in Cape Breton County, the Coxheath Copper Company have had a line of railway six miles in length surveyed from the mine to Lime Point, on Sydney Harbor. Land has been secured and arrangements made for erecting a large establishment for treating their own and foreign ores, for conversion into matte. It is stated that contracts extending over terms of years, have been made, which guarantee abundance of ore in addition to the large amounts which recent explanatory work has shown in their own mine. Towards the close of the year more powerful pumping and winding gear were erected, and the compressed air drill plant enlarged to the dimensions originally contemplated, and the sinking of the shaft and extension of the preliminary levels vigorously pushed. It is confidently believed by the Directory of the Company that the essentials for the successful prosecution of a large copper reducing business exist at this point. Certainly the conditions of cheap fuel, limestone, iron ore, water carriage, etc., etc., cannot be surpassed. Trial runs made under the superintendence of Dr. Peters, the well known copper expert, with Coxheath ore, Reserve coke, and local fluxes of Sydney limestone and iron ore, gave the greatest satisfaction, yielding copper matte of excellent quality, with an insignificant loss of metal. The establishment of this undertaking would open a market for the many deposits of rich copper ores known in Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, and Cumberland Counties, which have not yet been worked.

MANGANESE.—Mr. J. W. Stephens continued working at Tennicape and Walton. The Messrs. Churchill are reported to have found good ore at Hantsport. Messrs. Thompson and Foster tested a bed of manganese ore near Kemptville, which is stated to be suitable for making ferro manganese. On the Salmon River, near the Valley Station, work was continued by Messrs. Carter, Archibald, and others, and about 60 tons of ore mined. The ore occurs as a gravel lying on sandstones in the vicinity of carboniferous limestones, and as irregular veins cutting the measures. The Hon. E. T. Mosley continued working at the Morrison mine at Salmon River, Cape Breton.

An important fresh discovery of gold has been made in the Kimberley district of Western Australia. Some gold was discovered by prospectors a couple of months since, when the *European Traveller* thus described the rush to the district: "Four hundred ounces of gold have been brought into Derby, being the result of five parties of prospectors. The largest find of any one party was eighty-five ounces, and the largest nugget weighed nineteen ounces. The news has caused great excitement there, and also in the other colonies. Two vessels laden with diggers have already left Adelaide. A vessel was chartered at Fremantle, and twenty-four hours after eighty passages had been booked, and she had accommodation for only a hundred. The vessel also takes a full cargo of horses and provisions, the former of which, the latest advices state, are commanding fabulous prices. Should the field turn out to be a good one, the lucky finder will be entitled to the Government reward of £5,000 for the discovery of the much coveted metal."

The *London Standard* in describing the Canadian Court says: "Of the mineral produce British Columbia sends a trophy in the shape of an obelisk showing the quantity of gold found in the colony during the last twenty-five years. It is estimated at £10,000,000 in value. Nova Scotia contributes a smaller obelisk showing that her yield of gold has been \$7,250,000, or about £1,450,000. In both these lands, gold mining has received an impetus recently. More important than the precious metals is the reserve of coal, of which Nova Scotia sends some fine samples. At present the Dominion of Canada draws its supplies largely from the United States, but the cold seams of Nova Scotia at no distant date will add largely to its wealth."

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