

wants and resources, we do not complain that she has done so.

"From a view of the actual system existing in the United States, and our altered relations with England, it would seem to result as a natural consequence that the time has arrived for Canada to seek such commercial relations with the United States as will enable us to participate in the benefits we see springing from their system, and which will admit us to a *Commercial Union* with that country, at the same time that we shall retain our cherished political relations with Great Britain unimpaired and intact. That this can be effected, your Memorialists sincerely believe, and it is in this belief and with this view that they now beg respectfully to submit:—

"That, in the opinion of your Memorialists, it should be the policy and aim of the Provincial Government to seek for and obtain in the best practicable form, and in the speediest manner, *complete and entire free trade with the United States*, as well as all foreign articles imported into the two countries as in articles the growth and manufacture of the same.

"That, in the opinion of your Memorialists, the only practicable way of securing this object is by the adoption by the Provincial Government of the American Tariff of Duties on all importations from sea, and by the free admission of the productions and manufactures of each country into the other; thus assimilating the commercial interests of the two countries in the way that is most desirable they should be assimilated.

"That amongst the details of this arrangement would be included the complete extinction of all Custom Houses on both sides of the frontier, retaining only those in Canada at the ports of Quebec and Montreal, and also a just and equitable apportionment of the amount of duties received to the Government of each country.

"That for the purpose of perfecting this arrangement, and as a further inducement thereto, the right of free navigation of the St. Lawrence and our inland waters, with the use of our harbors and canals, should be granted to the United States upon the payment of the same tolls and dues as are paid by ourselves.

"Finally, it is the opinion of your Memorialists that such an arrangement as the above would be greatly to the advantage of Canada, and in nowise inconsistent with that connection which it is our duty, as well as our desire, to maintain with the parent state."

The plan of Mr. Gould is a statesmanlike measure, it would break down the barrier of duties and consular fees and certificates at each terminus, and is in accordance with the recommendation made to Congress by Mr. McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, our great financier, in his message of 1865, when the treaty was expiring. Thus introduced by both parties, it would probably have the sanction of both countries, if other questions are adjusted; and Heaven only knows why they are kept open by England. When the late Richard Cobden, renowned everywhere, was in Canada, he was asked the question whether England would assent to such a measure, and is said to have replied "that she would shrug her shoulders at the duties, but if she found Canada in earnest would at length consent," and this no doubt would be her true policy, for Canada if opposed might move alone if she were really in earnest. But England need not alarm herself as to the duties. High as the war duties still are in the United States, our exports rarely equal our imports, and we buy from foreign nations to the extent they buy of our productions, at fair prices, but while we have a vast inland free trade, and while our farmers and artisans are alike prosperous, we do not wish to bring our duties so low as to expose our workmen to a competition with the pauper labor of Europe, and thus endanger the home market of our farmers by converting artisans into yeomen. We believe entire free trade better suited to the meridian of England than to that of the States, but regard in a different light a free trade over-spreading our continent. Doubtless at this moment our duties are higher than it is for our interest to have them, for they were raised during the war to offset the taxes on manufactures, and to keep our specie for war purposes, for there was a period when the Pennsylvanians rated the direct and indirect imposts on our bar iron at three pounds per ton, but we have removed those charges, and this year we extract half-a-million tons from the rich magnetic ore of Lake Superior alone, and can now afford to remove the extra duty on iron as well as breadstuffs. Our duties have checked the import of both. Boston imported in '67 from Canada but half-a-million bushels of oats in place of a million and a half in '65, and less than seventy thousand barrels of flour in place of two hundred and seventy thousand in the former year. Our tariff will be revised next spring, and if England wants concessions to her iron, salt, earthenware, alpacas, or broad-cloth, she should conciliate America. We read the caustic satire and erroneous prophecies of the *Times* and *Blackwood* through the war, and it is time they ceased to exhort a sensitive people. Is it not the province of the proprietors of the Grand Trunk, one of the great avenues of the continent, which might in ten years more increase its tonnage four-fold if the two countries are reconciled and the line well managed, to take the office of mediators and make the International Trunk line a highway of nations?

Yours ever,
Boston, Mass., July 8, 1868.

E. H. DERBY.

The American hard-rubber wood company has been formed in Bridgeport, Conn., with a capital stock of \$250,000, and a manufactory of rubber carriages is to be established in that city. An open buggy weighing 125 pounds, whose body is made of one piece of rubber one-eighth of an inch thick, has just been made there, and \$2,000 has been offered and refused for it. The running gear is of wood, but the next carriage made will be entirely of rubber. The material is unaffected by wet or cold weather, and was prepared at a temperature of nearly 300 degrees.

THE GOLD REGIONS.

THE mineral resources of the Hastings district are being slowly developed under circumstances which would discourage any but the most active and enterprising miners. When it was first announced that gold existed in the rocks of Madoc, the statement was received with a great deal of incredulity, and those who were hopeful enough to believe that the precious metal was present in sufficient quantities to pay for working were met only with sneers from the sceptical or flat denial from the totally unbelieving. Those who had capital were in this way frightened from investing it in schemes which on their face looked promising enough, and after the first flow of gold-seekers to the new El Dorado the few courageous pioneers who remained had to work against all sorts of adverse influences. They persevered, however, with praiseworthy energy; thoroughly explored the country; sunk shafts where the indications gave promise of favourable results; erected crushing-mills for extracting the metal from the quartz, and in various other ways showed that they were determined fully to test the question as to the mineral wealth of the region.

This practical experience has proved that gold is deposited in greater or less quantities in several townships in the county of Hastings, that it may be worked with profit, and that it only needs capital, aided by intelligent processes of running and smelting, to make the whole region productive and valuable.

Thus far, besides the want of capital a serious drawback has been the cost and difficulty of extracting the gold from the rock, the sulphatic nature of which rendered the process of separation tedious and uncertain. This obstacle, we are assured, has now been overcome by improved amalgamating machinery, so that a fair percentage of the gold contained in the quartz will in future be saved. But the slowness with which returns have rewarded the labor of the miner has in the meantime retarded progress and strengthened the doubts of those who all along have given only scant encouragement to mining operations. The speculative fever which seized upon owners of mineral lands when gold was first discovered also injured the prospects of the country, which can hardly yet be said to have fully recovered from its effects.

It may be that Madoc and the surrounding townships will at the best offer but slight inducements to those who have money which they wish to invest in profitable enterprises. It would be unwise to be too sanguine, and expect better results than other countries have yielded which possess gold-bearing quartz. At the same time only ignorance will deride the idea that gold is to be obtained for the working, while all who wish every interest in the country to prosper will be glad to see the wealth of the Madoc region thoroughly developed. To promote this object it is desirable that a sufficient amount of capital should be employed, not to further the scheme of the mere speculator, but to give a stimulus to enterprises which should they prove successful, would be of great benefit to the whole country.—*Toronto Leader*.

RENFREW GOLD DISTRICT.

RENFREW is distant from Halifax 37 miles, 30 of which are performed by rail and the remainder by stage from Enfield Station. Very little systematic mining had been done in this district until the opening of the Ophir mine in the spring of 1866. Since then it has risen into the foremost rank as a gold producer. The Chief Commissioner of Mines, in his last report, says:—"From being third in rank last year, and about fifth in years previous, it has placed itself first this year, having produced nearly 900 oz more gold than any other district, and is only second in point of profit to Sherbrooke, each man employed having earned eight hundred and ninety-five dollars and thirty cents (\$895.30) for the year." This is double the average earnings of miners in Australia or California. The gold of Renfrew for the last month published (June) was twenty-five per cent greater than that of any other district in Nova Scotia. The "Ophir" mine, which has contributed much to these satisfactory results, was started by Mr. C. F. McClure and associates in Boston. It shows what can be done in mining by men who know their business, and exercise prudence and economy. The territory owned by the company embraces nineteen acres, equal to about fifteen acres. The length of the property in the direction of the leads is 900 feet. The principal amount of quartz has hitherto been obtained from the North and South leads, which have been worked to a depth in some places of nearly 200 feet. Last month, however, a new lead was discovered to the south of the old workings which promises greater returns than those previously opened. It is from three to three and a half feet wide, and has yielded on the average two and a half ounces of gold, or \$50 to the ton. Being principally composed of slate, with thin bands of quartz, it is very easily mined, and the total cost of mining, milling and amalgamating, will not exceed \$4 per ton. On the adjoining property three new leads have been discovered lying between the south lead, so that there is no lack of ore to sustain the high reputation of the mine. The mill is reckoned the model one of the Province. It contains six batteries of four stamps each, worked by water power. It is quite a pleasure to look at such an establishment—everything substantial, neat and compact. About 30 tons of quartz and slate are crushed daily. Mr. Huff, the Superintendent of the mill, is well known as being a thorough master of the business. Mr. Prince has had charge of the mine since its opening, and his ability and prudence have contributed in a marked degree to the success of the enterprise. We subjoin an abstract of the last

financial report of the Company, dated Boston, 3rd September, 1867:—		
Receipts from February, 1866, to August, 1867, (both months inclusive).....		\$209,940 34
Expenses at mine.....	\$ 84,024 92	
Expenditures in erection of new mill and other equipments of a permanent character.....	13,000 00	
Paid for additional land.....	2,910 00	
Miscellaneous expenses.....	4,523 23	
Net earnings:—		
Dividend in Jan., '67.....	\$50,000 00	
Do in April.....	25,000 00	
Cash on hand Sept 1.....	3,482 19	
	—\$105,412 19	\$209,940 34

The capital of the company is \$100,000. We thus see that in twenty months it was more than paid back, leaving the property clear with mill hoisting and pumping gear, buildings, and all other equipments paid for out of the profits, and without a single call upon the shareholders! The mine to-day looks better than ever it has done, in the opinion of those who ought to know.

The "Colonial" Mine, which adjoins the "Ophir," is being worked by some Montreal associates. The same leads are being worked as in the Ophir. From the north lead over \$15,000 have been taken, and 100 tons of quartz will be raised from it this month. The Ophir company worked close up to the line, and the Colonial have just continued the same strip along the lead into their own property. The lead has here increased in thickness, but continues about the same average richness. On the south lead a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 66 feet, and level driven from it east and west along the course. A good deal of ground has thus been up for stripping, and, judging from the appearance of the quartz which shows frequent "sights" of gold, the yield must be fully equal to that part of the same lead worked on the Ophir. The new Ophir lead has been opened at two different points on the colonial property, and when worked no doubt will yield good returns. In a cross-cut between this lead and the South lead, three new leads of great promise have been discovered. One is 9 feet south of the south lead, another is 15 feet, and the third 45 feet. This last is a bed of slate carrying three different leads of quartz. Leads of this character are regarded with great favour by the miners. Although work has only been commenced this month, it is reported to have 200 tons of quartz ready for the crusher, by the 1st of September. The mill belonging to the Colonial Mine is the most substantially built, and best arranged mill in the Province. It has four batteries (of four stamps each) in running order, with foundations, shafting, &c., for two more. Each of these batteries runs independently of the other, thus giving every facility for repairs or cleaning up, without interfering with the general working of the mill. The engine was built at Brooklyn and is of 80-horse power. It is, however, contemplated to drive the stamps by water power, as the same stream which works the Ophir can be here dammed up so as to give 16 feet head of water. A great saving will thus be effected. The Colonial embraces 27 acres, and has 1350 feet of each of the leads, while the Ophir has only 900 feet. There is, therefore, every prospect of its turning out equally successful, if managed with the same skill and prudence.—*Montreal Gazette*.

CROPS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

THE crops of the Province of Quebec will be better than the long drought led many to anticipate. In the region north and east of this city, the grain generally presents a gratifying appearance, and promises a good yield. True, in many parts the straw will be short, as a consequence of the absence of rain during the important period between the middle of June and last week of July; but the needed showers since have revived the drooping cereals, and imparted to their growth a healthy stimulus. Under the favourable weather of the last few weeks the grain has headed very well, and there is yet sufficient time in a great portion of this province for the proper development and ripening of backward fields. It is estimated that between this city and River du Loup the yield of oats, barley and wheat, will be a good average, and in the district stretching from the latter point to the Gulf a larger crop than usual is expected to be harvested this year. In the northern and north-eastern sections of the province the spring rains are sown late, and consequently they had not advanced sufficiently to suffer much injury from the drought which proved so damaging elsewhere. These late crops have been favored with fine growing weather at the right stage, and are now well advanced to maturity. In the district east and north of this city, a larger breadth of wheat, barley and oats, was sown this year, owing to the encouraging prices the farmers have received for these grains during the last couple of seasons. We are told by intelligent agriculturists that though wheat has been raised successfully in this region of late, where its cultivation was long ago stopped by the ravages of the fly, it pays as well to raise oats and other crops. Oats and hay are, on the whole, the safest and most profitable crops for this Province, which is so largely indebted to them for her present prosperity. Wheat in the good heavy soils looks excellent, and will, should the weather continue favorable, turn out most satisfactory. Considering that there is more land under grain this season than previously, we are justified in the anticipation of a larger yield than usual. The hay crop will be under the average, but not to the serious extent feared. It is pleasant to know, however, that the root crops look healthy, and promise an abundant yield both in the neighborhood of this city and throughout the country north and east. To show that intelligence and enterprise are spreading in the agricultural districts, we may state that fields of buck-