

raising coal from mines hundreds of feet deep, ship it to Ottawa, and sell it for six to seven dollars per ton.

Open diggings can hardly be worked with profit to a greater depth than fifty feet, be the vein ever so rich, while in extensive underground works, a depth of several hundred feet make little or no difference in the cost of the mineral.

It is often asserted that phosphate mining is very risky and uncertain the same might, with equal justice, be said of any business, if entered into by men wanting the required knowledge. Had our mining operations been conducted by competent men, they would likely have been as successful as operations of this nature ever are; but exploring can seldom be done without cost, and is not likely to lead to valuable discoveries if not properly conducted.

In purchasing and exploring phosphate lands, it should always be remembered that deposits Nos. 1 and 2 are worthless, the mineral being profusely scattered through nearly all kinds of rocks in districts where no valuable discoveries have yet been made.

Nothing should be paid for any location unless it is evident that it belongs to Class Nos. 3 or 4, in this case it may be valuable, but it may also be valueless, as veins are exceedingly numerous, and it is only exceptional cases in which they carry phosphate in paying quantities; however, with proper precaution and judgment, there is no reason to consider but that phosphate mining is as safe as most investments, and with the chances of its being far more remunerative.

---