

gold which has never prevailed in this country in gold mining, and which most surely never will. By the *forever* clause in the lease the outside public are entirely debarred by the Government from taking any part in mining or exploration in this section of the province, except by permission of the owners of the Seigniori. But this is in turn prohibited, since in 1864 the De Lery Company, who derived their patent direct from Government, sub-let their entire mining right to the De Lery Gold Mining Company for a term of thirty years, so that until the second ownership expires no work can be done in the Seigniori by outside parties without direct permit from the second company. The effect of all this is very evident. While the company is apparently quite willing to grant mining leases to any person desirous of working gold mining claims in any part of their territory, there is a very well founded objection on the part of those contemplating investment in this direction to advance the capital necessary for the erection of permanent works on a large scale by which the extraction of the gold can be most profitably carried on, owing to the insecurity of tenure existing under the present regulations. Works adapted to the requirements of the case mean the construction of reservoirs for permanent storage of water to meet the possible requirements of a dry season, extensive flumes or ditches for the conveying of such water when required, properly prepared grounds and appliances for washing the gravel and collecting the gold when separated; in fact, a somewhat extensive plant. This, with a prospect that in a very few years their lease must of necessity expire, and if good results are obtained, an almost absolute certainty of non-renewal from the original company on any terms which would permit of profitable mining, has effectually placed a bar to all possible chances of development in this direction. Here, then, is one of the principal causes why capital does not at present flow into the Chaudiere district, rich as it is in gold.

As regards the second gold mining area, which, according to the most reliable reports, is in many respects equally