

purchased some few thousand dollars' worth of gold, and intimated that he would buy as much as the people could bring to him. The price being rather higher than they had been in the habit of getting, and the market thus brought to their doors, he found himself next morning besieged by a crowd of people, with gold in plates, in saucers, in teacups, in tin pans, in bags, &c., and in such quantity that he had to confess it was altogether beyond his means of purchasing. This led to the purchase of the de Lery patent, but the death of the gentleman in question delayed the operations intended under it.

In the spring of 1864, a considerable number of people visited the auriferous region, before the working season commenced, with the view of securing good locations, but the prosecution of their enterprise was prevented, and many left in disgust, without the intention of returning again, *because no locations could be had on any terms.*

This was due to the fact that, theoretically, the Crown owned all the gold on private as well as on public land. The de Lery patent had been granted for mining within the seigniority of Vaudreuil, burdened with a *royalty of ten per cent. of the gross proceeds*, and a bill was before Parliament, then in session, to provide for the leasing of claims by the government *on private as well as public property, and ignoring all right to the gold on the part of the proprietors of the soil.* This bill encountered great hostility, and roused such a spirit of dissatisfaction—almost of threatened resistance—among the people of the district, that the crowd of new-comers, to the number of several thousand, not only received no encouragement, but were looked upon as interlopers come to rob them of their rights; and the natural consequence was, that the adventurers—who had come, at any