

The Eastern Townships also possess a good deal of mineral wealth. In some places gold has been found, and in some localities it has been profitably worked, and there is promise of further development. There are very considerable copper mines which have been worked; nickel also has been profitably worked. There are slate quarries of great value. There are also valuable building stones, including valuable granite and marble. Many other minerals have been discovered which have not been worked or have not been found in sufficient quantities to rise to the rank of industries.

#### IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETS.

The Eastern Townships are now thoroughly opened up in every direction by Railways, in operation; and several other important lines are contemplated. The Grand Trunk Railway connects Richmond, Sherbrooke and Compton with Montreal on one side; and Portland, which practically may be called one of the winter ports of the Dominion, on the other. The Central Vermont Railway connects another portion of the Townships with the cities of Montreal and Boston. The South Eastern Railway still other portions with the same cities. The Quebec Central connects Sherbrooke with Quebec. The St. Francis and Megantic International Railway connecting with the Grand Trunk at Sherbrooke, opens up a large and valuable tract of country for settlement; and is a portion of a projected, and it is to be hoped, soon to be completed through line connecting with the ports of St. John and St. Andrews in New Brunswick, and making the shortest possible line between Montreal and the Atlantic seaboard. The St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain Railway; the Montreal, Portland and Boston Railway; and the Massawippi Valley Railway,—severally open up other portions of the Townships. The parts of the country served by these several railways may be seen by a study of the map.

It will further be seen that these connections open for the Townships trade with Montreal and Quebec on one side, and the New England States on the other; both of which are valuable.

The New England States have, in the past, taken vast quantities of dairy produce from the Townships. The butter for instance, produced there has been remarkable for special excellence. The clear streams and rich grasses of the hillsides are most favourable to excellence in this product. Cheese factories are very numerous in the Townships, and the cheese turned out, like the butter, is remarkable for good quality. It is believed that the Townships are favourably situated for taking part in the considerable Cattle Trade which is now being opened up between the Dominion and the United Kingdom. A good deal of fine stock will be found throughout the Townships, and at the farm of the Hon. Mr. Cochrane, in Compton, some of the finest stock in the whole world may be seen.