

new discoveries of importance have been made and it will evidently take a year or two longer before the mining interests can recover from the excessive speculation of 1867 and '68.

Silver.

Various accounts have recently been published in regard to the Silver mine at Thunder Cape. The present writer visited the locality in the middle of last October, and has received accounts of the mine from Fort William up to the close of the year. The party sent by the new proprietors under the direction of Capt. F. B. Frue, formerly of the South Pewabic mines, landed on the first of September, and in two weeks had completed a coffer-dam 82 feet long, to shut off the water of the lake, and commenced mining. This dam was built of timber from the United States and puddled with clay brought from the Detroit River. It was surrounded outside by a crib about 150 feet square filled with stone. The water was quickly removed from the coffer-dam by means of steam pumps. On the 16th of October the mine consisted of an open cut about 40 feet in length along the outcrop of the vein and only 7 feet deep in the middle, tapering to nothing at each end. Out of this 120 barrels had been taken by Capt. Frue's men in addition to what had been obtained by the Montreal Company by working under water and which yielded them upwards of \$25,000. Several hundred weight of samples were deposited in Capt. Frue's office at Ryantown on Thunder Cape. Some of these consisted of lumps of solid ore as large as a man's head, from which the native silver protruded so thickly as to lacerate the fingers in attempting to lift them. At the time of my visit, 56 men were employed, but only a few of them were miners. It was intended to increase the number if possible to 100 before the winter set in. Up to the beginning of November, the new company had landed 180 barrels of ore at the Sault Ste Marie, from which it was being sent to Newark, N. J., to be reduced. The average weight of the barrels was 562 lbs., but one lot was larger and heavier. A further quantity of ore was sent down by the regular boats after the above date and also by the Mining Company, and which arrived at Thunder Cape on the 14th of November. The bulk of the ore shipped by the Montreal Company averaged a little over \$2,000 a ton or about \$1 per pound and it was expected that what was sent away by the new company would prove equally rich. The first 100 barrels smelted, however, yielded only half that proportion, or \$1,000 per ton and the total amount realized at the beginning of December was about \$8,000, but it was believed that the additional ore secured would bring the amount up to \$130,000 early in January of the present year.

Last autumn a vein which had been known for some time on the North shore of Thunder Bay, about twelve miles East of Current River, or opposite Mary's Island, was found to contain silver, and was soon afterwards bought by some Americans, represented by Capt. Beck, who has been working the mine during the winter, and is said to have obtained good results.

The Thunder Bay Silver Mining Company ceased operations in January, 1870. The buildings at the mine were all destroyed at the time of the great fires in the summer, but the stamp-mill and other buildings at the mouth of Current River escaped.

A shaft was sunk on a silver vein on McKellar's Island, last winter, by parties at Fort William, but was not continued during the summer from want of funds.

Iron.

The Cobourg, Peterboro, and Matmora Railway and Mining Company have continued to work their iron mines in Belmont with great vigour. They employ over 100 men in the mines, and have spent a large sum in improving their Railway. The shipments of ore for 1870 are reported

to amount to about 10,000 tons. About 20,000 tons were produced in 1869.

The Chaffey Mine, near Newboro', has been worked to a considerable extent during the past summer, and 3,150 tons of ore have been sent by barges to Kingston and shipped thence to Cleveland, Ohio.

The Matthew's Mine, close to the last, has also been worked under the superintendence of Mr. Fyfield, and 4,750 tons of ore were sent off by the same route as that from the Chaffey Mine.

About 50 tons of ore have been sent from Howe's lot in Belmont, but it is said that the distance which the ore requires to be hauled to Westport, on the Rideau Canal, 14 miles, will prevent this deposit from being worked at present.

The ore of all the above localities is of the magnetic variety, but at the "Cowan Mine," near Playfair's Mills, 12 miles west of Perth, a deposit of rich hematite has been worked by Messrs. Cowan, Robinson, D. Torrance & Co., and about 5,000 tons of ore have been produced, of which about half has been shipped to Cleveland. This ore has been found to yield 60 per cent. of iron on a large scale.

The extensive beds of iron ore on the east shore of Lake Superior, belonging to Mr. G. D. Ferguson, of Fergus, and others, remain unworked, but now that Canadian ores are becoming so much into demand in the United States these deposits will doubtless soon receive attention.

The Hull Iron Mines, which had been closed for more than a year, were re-opened in August last, and about 3,500 tons of 67 per cent. ore taken out before the end of the year. The property has been purchased by some of the parties who are interested in the Cobourg, Peterboro and Matmora Railway and Mining Company, under the name of the Forsyth Mining Company.

The St. Francis River Iron Works have been continued vigorously under the efficient management of Mr. O. A. Richer. The ore reduced at these works is the variety known as limonite or bog-iron, which yields a very tough white metal, highly prized for the manufacture of car wheels, for which it is extensively used. About \$23,000 worth of iron from the St. Francis forges was sold in Montreal during the year.

In the neighbourhood of Three Rivers, Mr. A. Larue's new works, north of the old Radnor forges, are said to have produced a large amount of iron, but we have no particulars to note. The St. Maurice forges, belonging to Messrs. John McDougall & Sons, of Three Rivers, were partially suspended, owing to the removal of some of the works to a new locality further back in the country. Bog-ore is the variety reduced at both of these forges.

The original Moisie Iron Company, is extinct, and the property having relapsed into the hands of Mr. W. M. Molson, a new company under the same name has been formed by a few parties in Montreal and Syracuse, N. Y., with a capital of \$500,000.

(To be continued.)

A NATION OF GAMBLERS.—This is extracted from Bret Harte's "heathen Chinese" who is said by this writer to have adopted "ways that are dark, and tricks that are vain." "It appears that Ah Sin, whose smile was (so) pensive and childlike," came naturally enough in possession of those powers of artifice which wrang from Bill Nye the declaration: "We are ruined by Chinese cheap labor," for we are told that the Chinese, at home and abroad, are inveterate gamblers—cards and dice being the principal means whereby they while away the time and lose their money. Chess draughts and dominoes are also, it is said, highly in favor, and lotteries possess for them a peculiar ascination. Shop-keepers gamble away their wares to customers, street-jugglers win their patrons' spare cash by means of their cheating tricks, and gambling houses similar to those of Europe or

America flourish in all the large cities of the Flowery Kingdom. One peculiarity of the Chinese pack of cards is that they contain many more than the American—a fact which may account for that numerous "hand" of Jacks that Ah Sin held in his sleeve on the occasion of his unlucky game with W. Nye.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKET.

A very fair business for the season has been done in most branches of trade during the past week. In Dry Goods preparations are being made, for the spring trade. Goods are arriving by each steamer, and there is now a fair prospect that the leading houses will be well assorted by the first week of March. There are no special complaints of dullness, the general feeling being that at this stage of the season, matters are as lively as ought to be expected.

DRESSES.—There is nothing special to note; the usual demand is reported at prices which show no variation.

DRY GOODS.—A good business for the season has been done with the city trade, and there have been a good number of visitors from the principal western cities and towns of Ontario, of that class who are always in market early in search of cheap or favorite lines. Goods are arriving by every steamer, and it is anticipated that stocks will be well assorted in a few days, and that business will open inside a fortnight. The opening so far as the country trade is concerned is not expected to be very brisk as many of the country merchants are hampered with surplus stock. On the whole, however, the opinion seems to be that a fair trade will be done.

FLOUR.—The lower tone of the English market during the past week has somewhat modified the views of holders, but not sufficiently to attract speculative buyers, who, as a general thing, are out of the market at present, trade being confined to mere local transactions. No. 1 superfine is held at \$5.75 to \$6, without transactions. Sales of fancy have been reported at equal to \$5.95 f.o.c. here. Extra sold only in bags, for which \$6.25 was had—held at \$6.50 in barrels. Outmeal.—Small lots selling at \$6 to \$6.25. To-day 100 barrels were offered at \$5.87½, with \$5.75 bid and refused. Cornmeal.—Selling in small lots at \$3.75 to \$4.25. Bran.—Scarce and enquired for at \$16 to \$17 by the ton; \$15 freely offered for car lots. Corn.—Selling as before, at 75c. by the car load, whole or crushed.

FREIGHTS.—The following are the winter rates on the Grand Trunk, now in operation: Flour to Kingston, 35c.; grain 18c.; flour to Prescott, 43c.; grain 22c.; flour to Montreal, 50c.; grain 25c.; flour to Point Levis, 80c.; grain 40c.; flour to St. John, N. B. \$1.02, grain 51c.; flour to Halifax, \$1.10, grain 55c.; flour to New York and Boston, 90c.; grain 45c., gold. The steamers Chase and Carlotta leave Portland for Halifax on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—There has been little or nothing done all week. \$1.35 has been freely offered for car loads of Spring, but no sales reported, holders standing out for \$1.40. No demand for soules, which is offered and refused at \$1.40. Barley.—Continues to be held firm. Very few sales reported. A few cars of No. 2 sold at 62c. delivered. No. 1 is held at 66c. to 68c. Peas.—Nothing whatever doing in round lots, and no supplies coming forward except on the street, where prices have been steadily advancing, and are quotable to-day and yesterday at 80c. to 83c. Oats.—Continue in active demand at firm prices, buyers freely offering 55c. for car lots on the track. Sales reported at this figure. Small lots selling at 58c. Rye.—74c. to 75c. on the street. Seeds.—Clover has been quite active, with a tendency to higher prices. A very good supply coming in on the street, and readily taken at \$5.