

ing put on to keep the spiling from pressing down directly on the timbers, and reserve a space through which the new spiles should pass, and then by loosening the turn-buckles the false sett was lowered until the enclosing shield of spiles rested on this new timber and four more feet were won. If a great flow of water and sand under great pressure is experienced, about all one can do is to let it drain until it lessens or stops, as will be nearly always the probable result. One detail in this kind of work must never be forgotten—100 feet or so back from the face, and perhaps again at 200 feet, is kept a supply of planks of proper length so that should the breast suddenly give way, the miners running back can at once build up a dam or bulkhead by laying these planks across the tunnel against the timbers. This is generally done in the dark, the sudden in-burst extinguishing the lights, and the treacherous sands may pour in as fast as the men can run. In a larger tunnel in the same place through neglect of this precaution, 600 feet of the tunnel was thus filled up and temporarily lost, necessitating a heavy additional expense for the recovery, most of which would have been avoided had some such precautions been observed.

NOTES ON THE (WHITE) MICA DEPOSITS AND MINES OF THE SAGUENAY REGION QUEBEC.

By J. OBALSKI, M.E., Inspector of Mines, Quebec.

This district, from a mining point of view, is an entirely new one, the first working having been commenced in the fall of 1892.

Some time prior to this date, it was known that mica existed at certain places, but no attempt was made to work it. Recently, however, the increased demand for mica, by reason of its extensive use in the generation of electricity and its accompanying requirements, caused prospectors to take the field, and certainly the results have proved satisfactory and gratifying.

The locality most prominent in this district at present is in the township of Bergeronnes, Saguenay county, and situated about twenty to thirty miles below the village of Tadousac, and at a distance of about ten miles from the shores of the St. Lawrence.