

During that period an Act of the Canadian Legislature was passed (in June 1864,) to encourage such enterprise, and a Select Committee of the Canadian Parliament was appointed, to obtain information as to the extent and resources of the Canadian gold fields, with a view of ascertaining what further legislative measures might be taken for the encouragement of mining and the employment of capital in the development of such gold fields.

In March 1865, an elaborate Report was made, after searching investigation of the subject, filling a closely-printed volume of 126 pages. A large number of witnesses, taken from all classes, were examined, including many of the residents of the Seigniorie, and old miners who had worked here, in California, Australia, and elsewhere; this evidence is conclusive as to the existence of gold in large quantities on the Chaudière and its tributaries. The whole volume, which may be seen at the office of Mr. J. Hockin, 8, Tokenhouse Yard, is well worth an attentive perusal. A few extracts, however, may not be out of place here, as showing the character of the evidence it affords.

Report of Committee, page 4:—

“The Rivers afford an ample supply of water for hydraulic mining, or any purpose to which water power can be applied.”