

## THE NORTH-WEST.

THE inhabitants of the Red River settlement are growing very impatient under the Hudson's Bay Company's rule. There is not much cause for astonishment; rather it is matter of surprise that they have patiently submitted so long to the arbitrary government of the great monopoly. Now that the Colony is growing in population and importance, however, they are urgent in demanding that the Hudson's Bay Company's yoke be removed from off their necks. The Mother Country having in effect refused to cede them a separate Government, their hopes are centred in their being admitted into our Canadian Confederacy, with which they desire to open communication and trade at the earliest possible moment. We do not think they need fear any disappointment on this point. We believe that one of the Government measures during the approaching session of the Parliament of Canada, will refer to the admission of the North-West into the Union. Should the Red River people be much longer left to the tender mercies of the great fur Company, bad feeling is not unlikely to be aroused. They know well that Uncle Sam would only be too glad to annex them, if their consent and that of Great Britain could be obtained, and threats of seeking admission into the Republic have been already made by some of the more hot-headed. The all but unanimous desire of the people is, however, for Union with Canada, and as the people of this country are in favour of their admission, the sooner the question is settled the better for all concerned. The opening up of the North-West will doubtless put Canada to a considerable bill of expense. A single good wagon road from Fort William to Fort Garry will cost a large sum, and there certainly will be a great deal more to do than that. But in the end, the expenditure will pay ten-fold. It will open up for settlement a fine tract of country, and it will secure for us at once a considerable trade, now almost entirely done with the Americans via St. Paul. This trade will augment as the territory built up, and in the course of twenty years, may swell to proportions little anticipated at the present time. The sooner, then, that the desires of the Red River people are met the better, so that they may be relieved from the incubus of the Hudson's Bay Company, and may feel themselves free to be a free people.

## NOVA SCOTIA GOLD MINES.

(To the Editor of the Trade Review.)

HAVING just returned from Nova Scotia, where I have been engaged in examining the gold mines there, in the service of Boston capitalists, allow me, through your medium, to give a few facts connected with my visit to capitalists interested in the developments of the mining interests of that country. The districts to which my attention was specially directed, were Sherbrooke and Wine Harbor.

Sherbrooke is situated on the St. Mary's River, about a mile to the eastward of Halifax, and is a small town of about six hundred inhabitants; and the mines are situated about two miles from it on the opposite bank of the river. The mining companies which I find in full operation in this locality are the "Wellington Co," "the Palmerston Co," "the Dominion Co," "the Sherbrooke Co" and "the Hayden Co." The Wellington Mining Co's property was the first that claimed my attention. This mine has been in operation for three years, and has proved to be a very remunerative investment, yielding twenty-five per cent. per quarter on the whole capital of one hundred thousand dollars in several returns, and consists of twenty-five mining areas, three leads being now worked to the depth of two hundred and ten feet. This Company is now engaged in erecting a steam engine of twenty horse-power for hoisting and blasting purposes, and are building a new quartz crushing mill with sixteen heads of stamps. The quartz taken from this mine has given a yield of from three to four ounces of gold per ton, and it is now under the able superintendence of L. Snow, Esq., of Boston.

The "Palmerston Co" was the next property that I examined, and also consists of twenty-five mining areas and showing about forty leads, six of which are now being worked. The main lead I examined and found to be over three feet in width, and the quartz well charged with gold. Mr. Snow, who is also the manager of this property, placed in my hands a bar of gold just from the retort, weighing over six hundred ounces, and assured me that after paying all expenses, there remained from this bar a net profit of nine thousand dollars.

The "Dominion" property is under the skillful and efficient management of S. Goodall, Esq., of Colorado,

and I learned that this Company was organized by Carlos Pierce, Esq., of Stanstead, Canada, in the city of Montreal. This property consists of nine mining areas, and is traversed by 25 well defined leads, averaging from four to fifteen inches in width, four of which are at present being worked by means of one main shaft, several cross-cuts being driven from this to the several leads. The returns thus far from this mine have been highly remunerative, and I am of the opinion that it will prove a first-class and permanent investment.

I will only add in reference to this locality that the Sherbrooke Company's property produced during my stay there, from one crushing of twenty tons of quartz a yield of two hundred ounces of gold. This Company had some discouraging results to contend with for some time, but their present success has more than compensated them for all past outlays, with a promise of splendid success in the future; which reflects credit upon the enterprise of Mr. Pierce, who organized this Company in New York.

I then proceeded to Wine Harbor, which is situated at a distance of twelve miles from Sherbrooke, on the Atlantic Coast, and I consider this locality a very rich gold field. It has not, as yet, been very largely developed, although the "Caledonian" property in this section produced in six months over two hundred thousand dollars in gold; but from the inexperience of the managers of this property, a large extent was opened from the surface, leaving it exposed to all surface water which might accumulate, and operations had to be abandoned until machinery could be brought into use, but which is now in full operation.

The Orient Gold Mining Co., is the only other mine that I had time to examine there. This property consists of twenty-two mining areas and is situated on a somewhat elevated point of land opposite to Barras's Island, with Indian Harbor on the one hand and Wine Harbor on the other, and has over forty well defined leads of gold bearing quartz, which average in width from two inches to two feet six inches and running in parallel lines close to each other. This Company has just completed a splendid crushing mill, constructed on the most approved principles, and although it has only been in operation for a short time and have only reached a depth of eighty feet, the returns so far from the main lead sunk upon, show an average of from one to two and one-half ounces per ton, and one of the smaller leads has given an average of three ounces and a half, and the present indications are that this is to be one of the best paying properties in Nova Scotia. It is under the able superintendence of John McQuarrie, Esq., who has been connected with the mine in this locality since their commencement. And from all that I observed during my visit to Nova Scotia, I have no hesitation in saying that gold mining can and will be prosecuted there with highly satisfactory results. The capitalists of the United States are now beginning to turn their attention to the gold mining interests of that country for permanent investment of capital.

I have only to add, that having been engaged in an exploring expedition to Newfoundland, I hope shortly to submit to you a communication upon the mineral resources of that country which came under my observation.

Yours, truly, D. W. CAIRNIE

Boston, Aug. 20, 1867

## THE COTTON CROP AND TAX.

THE returns published by the Bureau of Statistics relative to the cotton crop, show that upon 5,067,025 acres sown, a crop of 1,568,357 bales of 450 lbs each has been produced. The tax of 2½ cents per pound on this crop would amount to \$17,644,016 25, which, deducted from the total value of the crop estimated at 2½ cents per pound (\$18,208,748 50), would leave to the producers a net result above the tax of \$130,665,730 25, or \$25 per acre for each acre planted. Estimating the crop of 1855 (3,113,982 bales) as worth an average of 13½¢ per pound, the crop of that year would amount to \$216,208,952 50 in value. The crop of the present year falls below this in value by about \$70,000,000, or 30 per cent. The cost of production is also somewhat higher under free than slave labor. But in view of the fact that a far less area of cotton and relatively a far larger area of corn and food crops, have been planted throughout the South this year than during most of the years prior to the war, the above results do not show an unfavorable tendency in Southern industry. The South will have less cotton to sell, but it ought to have less corn, grain and provisions to buy for home support. If this shall prove to be the case, the South will grow richer annually, despite a considerable falling off in the cotton crop as compared with the crop before the war.

Petitions for the repeal of the cotton-tax are circulating all over the South, and confident hopes seem to be indulged that Congress will repeal it at the approaching session. Some are even flattering themselves into the delusion that the portion of the tax already paid will be refunded, as if there were something inherently outrageous or essentially wrong in the tax itself. Undoubtedly, one motive in passing the tax was to assess some part of the expenses of the war upon the section and class deemed immediately responsible for the rebellion. To this extent it may be conceded to be levied for punishment as well as for

venue. If this were the only motive which entered into its enactment, this very fact would now be a sufficient reason for its repeal, especially as the punishment falls on the loyal laboring blacks as well as on the wealthy planters. But there are other reasons which the close of the war does not remove. Although the cotton tax is, we believe, the only tax assessed on an agricultural product, as such, yet it must be remembered that cotton is the only staple of which the United States has anything like a monopoly; and when a country has a monopoly of an agricultural product which foreign nations must consume, statesmen and economists generally have agreed in the proposition that a tax on its production does not diminish the production in any injurious degree, but is paid by the foreign consumer. It was because Congress believed the tax on cotton would really be paid principally by the English, French, and other foreign consumers, that they loved the tax.

It is fair to condemn it as a sectional tax, because no Northern agricultural products are taxed. It must be remembered that in the present dearth of manufactures at the South, nearly the whole body of our Internal Revenue laws impose their burdens directly and almost only on the North. The South pays very little of them either as a producer or consumer. Whether Congress should repeal the cotton tax as a matter of National economy may be a very proper question for the fullest agitation and discussion. The notion that they are called upon to pay back one cent of the tax already paid, however, is the wildest nonsense, and those who run any risks on such a contingency are certain to lose their money. It does not seem, however, to be a very serious grievance as yet that seventeen millions of cotton tax falls peculiarly on the South when several hundred millions of Internal Revenue taxes and import tariffs fall just as peculiarly on the North.—N. Y. Tribune.

## ENVELOPE MANUFACTURE.

ENVELOPES first came into use about the year 1839, and for some time were cut and folded by hand; but as this process was too slow to supply the increasing demand, several ingenious machines were invented to furnish them with greater rapidity. These machines cut the paper into shape with chisels, and the envelopes were then folded by hand, with the common folder. About 3,000 were as many as one person could fold per day. In 1845, another machine was patented, by which from 45 to 60 envelopes per minute were produced, precisely alike, making from 27,000 to 30,000 per day.

In 1851 another machine was constructed for folding and gumming the paper for envelopes. In the United States, hand-made envelopes were first furnished to the trade by Messrs. Bell & Gould, and Mr. G. F. Nesbitt of New York. Mr. Gerard Sickles invented a machine which was used by the former house with good success. Mr. Nesbitt soon secured another machine, more simple and 1½ per cent than any then in use. He used in his establishment about eighteen machines, the capacity of each of which was about 20,000 envelopes per day.

There are now several large establishments using machines of different capacities. Of these, "Lockwood's Improved Envelope Machine" is the only one which makes envelopes by a continuous operation. It has four times the capacity of any other machine now in use, and requires a fewer number of attendants. Each machine is capable of making six sizes of envelopes, and produces an average of from 80,000 to 90,000 complete envelopes per day. The paper passes into this machine from a continuous roll at one end, and the envelopes come out gummed and finished at the other end, at the rate of 175 to 200 per minute.

These envelopes are as neat in appearance, and more evenly gummed than those made partly by hand, and are therefore less liable to open. There being fewer thicknesses of paper than in the old style, they offer a more even surface for the type work, and hence present a neater appearance when printed upon.

The Lockwood Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia has one of the largest and most complete establishments of its class in the United States. The buildings have a front on Third and Locust Streets of 47 feet a depth of 187 feet, and are five stories in height. In the different apartments there are about 90 machines used in the various processes, to which power is communicated, by means of over 60 feet of shafting, from a 44-horse-power engine. The exhaust steam is used not only in warming the building, but in boiling water, and heating glue and paste. Many of the machines are of wood, and some of them costly. In connection with paper collars, envelopes, and tags, there are apartments appropriated to the manufacture of paper boxes, of which about 3,000 are made daily.

All the printing of labels, envelopes, cards, &c., is done on the premises, and so extensive is their business that eleven of Gordon's improved printing presses, and nearly 200 fonts of new type, are employed in this department. There is also a large and a machine-shop, where they build all their own machinery, and make the necessary repairs. Eight machinists are now at work building envelope machinery, which will produce 700,000 daily, and which, by running 1 day and night, can be increased to 1,400,000 a day—nearly twice that of any other establishment in the country. At present, nearly 6,000 pounds of paper are consumed daily in the establishment, about 2,500 are used for envelopes alone. The Company employ about 250 hands, the majority of whom are women. Dining and dressing rooms are provided for their accommodation. Elevators are used as a means of communication between the different stories of the building, and they are so arranged, by means of dogs that spring into ratchets in the sides that any serious accident from their breaking of wires is almost impossible. The collars and tags departments contain \$100,000 worth of machinery. The sales-rooms of the establishment are at N. E. 235 and 265 South Third Street, Philadelphia, and No. 310 Broadway, New York.—N. Y. Tribune.