

development, as the annual reports published by Mr. D. T. Day, of the U. S. Geological Survey, very clearly set forth. As for Canada, its mineral wealth is only beginning to be rightly appreciated, and the excursions to the Sudbury and Port Arthur mining districts, and to the Eastern Townships, showed the visitors at least some portions of the great field that is so largely unworked. Every province of the Dominion has its characteristic features of interest to the mineralogist and of value to the capitalist. Even the vast areas that lie beyond the reach of civilized habitation—the Mackenzie Basin, the Yukon region, the Hudson's Bay country, and the unsettled parts of our own province, teem with minerals of economic value. The mineral production of Canada exceeds an annual total of \$15,000,000—about a third of which represents the output of coal. Gold, iron, copper, phosphates, petroleum, lead, and various other substances, more or less precious, have their place on the list which our Survey has elaborated.

It has been suggested by one of our contemporaries that provision should be made for dealing with fatalities such as the recent land-slide at Quebec by the organization of a sort of committee, which should be supplied with all the apparatus necessary for saving life, and placed under civic or government supervision. The suggestion is not untimely. There is no less reason why knowledge and skill should be applied to the rescue of imperiled humanity on land than there is for the equipment of a life-saving service to meet the needs of endangered vessels or shipwrecked crews. To give realization to the suggestion will require something more than an article in a newspaper, which is read to-day and forgotten to-morrow. To move the public or the authorities that represent it is a work of time. The *vis inertiae* that resists any needed reform is sadly discouraging to ardent temperaments. Only agitation, kept vigorously afoot, can effect any improvement, however essential to the community's safety or comfort. And save in the immediate presence of danger, it is almost impossible to make the multitude conscious of its existence. The suggestion is doubtless practicable, but it must be taken up earnestly by a few public-spirited persons and absolutely forced on the attention of the people and their rulers if it is ever to be more than a scheme on paper.

THE SETTLEMENT OF GASPEISIE.

We have learned with satisfaction that a movement is afoot to settle a colony of Belgians in the county of Gaspé. The Hon. A. D. de Vos, a leading statesman of Belgium, arrived recently at Quebec, in connection with the purchase of a tract of land suitable for the purpose. M. de Vos, on reaching Canada, at once put himself in communication with Mr. Charles de Boutillier and the curé of Gaspé Basin, who is a native of Belgium. The plan favored by the Belgian authorities is to leave the enterprise in the hands of the capitalists who have offered to advance the money for the necessary outlay. M. de Vos, in company with Mr. Le Boutillier, has already made an inspection of the district suggested for the colony and has expressed himself as satisfied with the result. His choice has fallen on a large township in the neighborhood of Gaspé Basin. This experiment in colonization will be watched with much interest by those who have concerned themselves in the development of this important portion of the Province of Quebec.

The limits of Gaspésie, or the Gaspé Peninsula, have been variously stated at different times by different writers. Early in the century the name was applied to a much larger area than that which it embraces to-day. According to Mr. T. C. Langelier, whose "Esquisse sur la Gaspésie" may be accepted as a standard authority on the subject, the peninsula comprises altogether 10,784 square miles, 4,461 of which are in the County of Gaspé, and the remainder in Rimouski and Bonaventure. The region has, therefore, an area nearly equal to that of Holland or Belgium, and about a third that of Ireland. If it were inhabited as densely as even Scotland or Switzerland, its population would not be less than a million, or if such a parallel be unacceptable, owing to the different conditions of the Old World and the New, it would, on the ratio of Prince Edward Island, support easily half a million souls. Various causes have been assigned for the neglect to which this important region has hitherto been doomed. In diverse resources it is in no respect inferior to other parts of Canada to which immigrants have flocked in thousands year after year. Early in the century Mr. Joseph Bouchette pronounced the land of excellent quality, abounding in good timber, maple, beech, birch, spruce, etc., the pineries being virtually inexhaustible—while its fisheries were among the finest in the world. Prosperous colonization is generally associated with steady application to agriculture, and it has been thought that the extent to which lumbering and fishing absorbed the attention of the Gaspésians was one great drawback to permanent settlement and the increase of the population. Except in the eastern portion of Rimouski, the settlements are, for the most part, linked in a more or less continuous chain along and around the coast. In the census of 1765, 109 persons are assigned to Gaspé, 209 to Baie des Chaleurs. In 1830 the population of Gaspé County was 2,567. In 1852 it had risen to 8,702; in 1861, to 11,426; in 1871, to 15,557; in 1881, to 20,685. The whole of Gaspésie in the last year had 56,860 inhabitants, of which 18,908 lived in Bonaventure, and 17,267 in Rimouski. By the last census Gaspé County yielded annually 28,047 bushels of spring and 695 bushels of winter wheat; 46,952 of barley; 87,551 of oats; 6,609 of rye; 6,172 of peas; 1,562 of buckwheat; 101 of corn; 423,591 of potatoes; 114,591 of turnips; 13,493 of other roots, and 17,169 tons of hay. The average of produce per acre is much larger in Gaspé than in either of the other two counties of the peninsula. It is, indeed, on a par with that of better known and more highly praised portions of the Province and the Dominion. This Mr. Langelier has clearly established by actual comparison of figures.

Into the mineral resources of the Gaspé peninsula we need not now enter. Enough to say that they are by no means unimportant, comprising lead, copper, asbestos, petroleum and other substances in paying quantities. Difficulty of access long stood in the way of a thorough exploration of the interior, but in recent years the Geological Survey has been devoting considerable attention to the region with, in the main, satisfactory results. The great and urgent desideratum is the peopling of the fertile tracts of the peninsula. Immediately after the cession of Canada to England an attempt, not altogether fruitless, to settle the north side of Gaspé Basin was made by Mr. Felix O'Hara, who emigrated from Ireland for the purpose, and was appointed judge of the district. In 1830 the O'Hara colony numbered 896 souls, distributed

among four settlements clustered around the Bay. Though originally agricultural, these, like the other coast centres of population became ultimately absorbed in the fishing industry, while the labour of the farm was to a great extent neglected. If the new colony is to succeed and to lead the way in the opening up of the interior, the founders should insist on making agriculture the primary consideration. The fisheries of Gaspé will always be important enough to attract enterprising spirits. It is in agriculture that it needs the encouragement of statesmen and capitalists.

MR. BLAINE'S GREAT SCHEME.

Looked at from certain standpoints, there seems much that is reasonable in the United States Secretary's desire to bring all the nations of the New World into closer commercial relations. There is something anomalous in the condition of things which has hitherto prevailed. It is quite intelligible that Mr. Blaine should ask himself whether it was in accordance with the due development of the States of North and South America that they should remain in practical isolation from each other, and that nearly all the trade of the latter should be monopolized by Europe. Canada, too, has felt that this exclusion of North America from all the profits of South and Central American commerce was hardly fair, and has even sent a commissioner to inquire whether our own merchants and manufacturers should not have a share in them. It is not Mr. Blaine's way, however, to do things by halves, and he has accordingly gone much further than our Government dreamed of doing or was in a position to do. What he wants is something greatly in advance of our modest proposals. He wants uniform patent and copyright laws; uniform silver coinage; uniform weights and measures, and a uniform standard of customs and tariff duties. The last clause reveals pretty clearly the nature and extent of his ambition.

The Congress is to take place next month. Some of the delegates have already arrived. They have been interviewed by the reporters, lectured by Mr. Blaine and banqueted at the Hub. Accounts differ as to their acceptance of Mr. Blaine's dictation. He has managed to have himself appointed president of the Congress, though, not being a delegate, he is really not even a member of it. Some of the visitors have, it seems, protested against his assumption of the chairmanship; but, if we may credit the reports that reach us, the delegates generally are delighted with their reception and with Mr. Blaine. Till the Congress takes place, however, there will be no knowing how far they are in agreement with him.

The danger that is obviously to be apprehended from the acceptance of Mr. Blaine's proposals is the supremacy in the western hemisphere which it would accord to the United States. The very fact that, in order to make his plan acceptable, Mr. Blaine has to alienate the delegates from England, Germany, France and Spain, with which nations their countries have hitherto had close relations, aggravates that danger. The whole conception is, in fact, an exaggerated form of the Monroe doctrine—America for the Americans and the United States supreme arbiter of cis-atlantic destinies. With the exception of the latter and Mexico and Brazil there is not a State on this side of the Atlantic that has a population equal to that of Canada. In the greater number of them it is less than half as much. It was in part the sense of weak-