As already stated, nickel is seldom or never absent from the serpentine of this area, but rarely forms more than two or three thousandths of the minerals in which it generally appears to be combined as a silicate. With the chrome-garnet of Oxford, the sulphuret of nickel (millerite), occurs in small grains and prismatic crystals, disseminated through the mixture of garnet and calcite in small quantity.

The most important mineral found in the Eastern Township serpentine is chrysotile, generally called asbestus, although the true asbestus is a fibrous tremolite or hornblende.

Of this mineral, which traverses the serpentine in irregular veins, varying in size from mere threads to a thickness of five or six inches, much has been said by Dr. Ells in his two last reports on the Eastern Townships. This mineral, which is undoubtedly a segregated one, is supposed by some to have been formed during the cooling of the mass in which it is found. They compare the cooling serpentine to a mass of cooling molasses, and say that asbestus is formed in the same way as the thin sugar fibres are produced in this substance when it is drawn out in the working. Acccording to this theory the longer asbestus veins would be the finer; but it happens to be the contrary. Moreover, how in this way could the presence of chromic iron, which is sometimes highly magnetic, be explained as occurring in veins in the asbestus veins themselves, cutting the latter very often into two equal parts?

The existence of asbestus in this country was detected by Sir Wm. Logan in 1851; bnt it was only iu 1877 that the first deposit of any commercial value was discovered. A *habitant* by the name of Fecteau was the happy finder.

In 1878 Messrs. Ward, John Johnston, Andrew Johnston and the Honorable George Irvine opened the first asbestus mine.

Asbestus was but little known by the ancient people, who used it only for the manufacture of cloths in which were placed the bodies of the great and distinguished men for cremation. By so doing they could keep their ashes from being mixed with any impurity. This minera was then scarce and very costly; its property of not being consumed by fire made it a wonderful and even a marvellous thing. It used to be then kept as an object of curiosity rather than of commercial value. Even in the seventeenth century asbestus was employed in the manufac-