

## THE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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The minerals which have hitherto received any attention in Nova Scotia are coal, iron, and gold. The list of those hitherto left neglected is much longer. The reason for the comparatively slight interest taken by Nova Scotians in the development of their mineral resources may be found in the fact that the lumber, farming, fishing, and similar industries have proved most attractive to people possessing comparatively small capital.

A very brief account of the chief geological features of Nova Scotia may advantageously preface these notes on the mineral deposits.

The Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia proper is occupied by pre-Cambrian measures, surrounding large masses and dykes of granite, considered as formed at the close of the Devonian period. In Cumberland, Pictou, and Antigonish counties there is a band of rocks, not yet worked out in detail, but believed to contain measures referred to the various horizons up to the Devonian. Between this range and the coast-rocks are areas of Devonian age, while great part of the counties of Antigonish and Guysboro is also Devonian. North of this range is a large tract of Carboniferous, which also occurs in connexion with the Devonian. In Cape Breton, the northern part of the island is Laurentian, comprising felsites, gneisses, granitoid rocks, and limestones. Similar rocks are found in the southern and western parts of the island. In Richmond county, there are large areas of Devonian rocks. Limited areas of Lower Silurian are found on the southern shore. The rest of the island is underlaid by the several divisions of the Carboniferous: these generally rest, without any intervening measures, directly on the Laurentian rocks, which form the hill-ranges. Without referring to the fact that some of the upper beds of the Carboniferous in Pictou,