

much better than could reasonably have been expected under such circumstances.

3/ The natural exposure of the rock, however, in the bed and along the gorge of the stream, affords the best means of forming a fair and comprehensive judgment as to the quality, extent and value of the slate on your property. In many places the banks are precipitous, exposing extensive face in the plane of the cleavage, which is thus shown to be of the most perfect character, being remarkably straight, smooth and regular. The rock splits very freely into thin smooth laminæ, and the operation of punching the nail holes may be performed without risk of splintering or breaking the slate. The color, which is a dark blue, (a shade lighter than the Melbourne Slate) is also very uniform; and this, as well as the cohesive quality of the slate seems to be totally unaffected by the atmospheric agencies, as tested by the natural exposures referred. I found specimens of the manufactured slates already referred to lying on the ground, which were as perfect in every respect as if they had been freshly made. In short, as I have already remarked on the similarity of condition of the slate rock on this, and in the Melbourne Slate Quarry, (the excellent character of which has been thoroughly established) I may here sum up all that may be said in regard to the quality of the slate on your property, by stating that it appears to me to be in every respect as good as that of Melbourne. 6/

? As regards quantity, it is obvious that the property will yield an unlimited supply for many generations. The demand for good roofing slate both in this province and in the United States, is also very great, and constantly increasing; and where, as in the present case, the facilities for working and shipping the slate are so great, the business is well known to be very profitable.

In opening up and working slate quarries on this property, the character and condition of the ground are highly favorable for economical development. The surface is undulating, and the slate rock is exposed throughout the ravine formed by the brook to an average depth varying from 100 to 150 feet. This will afford ample height above the drainage level for two working benches of forty or fifty feet each, besides the requisite depth for stripping or overburthen. For lower benches—if ever required—the water power furnished by the stream will be amply sufficient at all times to work pumps for drainage, and machinery for hoisting. The gorge of the stream will also afford sufficient dumping ground.

In conclusion, I beg to express my confident opinion that this property combines advantages for the prosecution of an extensive slate manufac-