

settled on a commercial scale, and the smelting of iron established in the district.

The apatite in the raw state is largely shipped to Europe, but the home demand for the superphosphate of lime for fertilizing purposes can be supplied from the works of the Brockville Chemical and Superphosphate Co. The pyrites used by this company for the last few years, for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, have been imported from New York State, but ores from the County of Hastings have been introduced to them, and the supply in future will be procured from local ores. The extended mining of the pyrites ore of the district is a question of much importance to the City of Ottawa, with its cheap water-power for dressing ores, and grinding apatite. The sulphur is used for treating the apatite in the form of sulphuric acid, and it would, if all we exported was shipped as superphosphate of lime, form an important industry. The residue of the pyrites ore can be most successfully treated after roasting, along with the lead ores, which we also have, and the copper, gold and silver extracted. Our lead ores are too poor in silver (about 5oz. or \$5 per ton silver) to pay to work for silver and lead alone, but when smelted along with the residue of the sulphur ores, holding copper, gold and silver, the question of working both is settled.

The more extended production of gold also requires attention. No man has ever possessed too much of it, and no country has produced too much. Its value increases with the cost of getting it, and the want of it. It is our highest standard of money and exchange, and is therefore, when found in workable quantities, the best investment for *surplus* labor and capital. The discovery of gold in California and Australia produced periods of great world-wide prosperity. All classes and conditions of men were drawn to a new occupation and country by the high wages earned in the mines. A laborer who had been working for a farmer or a tradesman, for \$1.00 or \$1.50 a day, could wash out gold to the value of \$10 or \$20 a day. Can a wise adjustment of our mining laws be made to have this effect, if only on a much smaller scale, by granting free-grant mining claims in districts where gold is known to exist?

In iron alone, had such measures been adopted, there would to-day