

The Gatineau.

We continue the description of the mills on the Gatineau River. The principal are the Gatineau Mills, belonging to Messrs. Gilmour & Co., situated at the village of Chelsea, about eight miles from the city of Ottawa and nine miles from the junction of the Gatineau with the Ottawa river.

During the summer this point of the river presents a scene of bustle and animation of the most extraordinary kind, and as the firm employs literally an army of workmen, the scene can be better imagined than described.

Below the booms, the worst point of the river has to be encountered by the logs descending the stream, and it is frequently enlivened by the appearance of perfect islands of stranded timber, technically called jams, and the efforts of the owners to set them afloat exhibit scenes of daring and endurance seldom witnessed elsewhere.

The mills were commenced about forty years ago. They now consist of two large, substantial buildings, and a smaller mill for preparing lumber for the United States market. The water power used is equal to about five hundred horse power. There are 13 saw gates containing about 220 saws; and twenty edging, butting, and re-sawing circular saws.

On their limits this firm has nine farms, comprising in all about 1,500 acres. The whole of the produce of these farms is consumed by the employees of the firm. On the banks of the river Gatineau they have four principal depots, from which supplies are sent to lumbermen at work in the woods.

Pickanook Village.

This village is situated in a valley at the mouth of the Pickanook river, distant from Ottawa sixty miles. It is one of the many romantic spots on the Gatineau. The founder of the village, Mr. J. Ellard, is proprietor of the grist mill and saw mills, which were built by him in 1862.

Coal in Winnipeg is quoted at \$15 50 to \$19 per ton.

It is semi-officially announced that the Ontario Legislature will meet on the 13th January.

The Victoria Farm.

About a mile above Pickanook village is Victoria Farm, the principal depot of Messrs. G. B. Hall & Co., whose mills are at Montmorenci, near Quebec. The farm, according to a correspondent, comprises 1,000 acres, 400 of which are under the most perfect cultivation, under the charge of Mr. R. Bowden, who also looks after the stock, which is unsurpassed on the Gatineau, and comprises 35 horses, 26 head of cattle, 55 sheep, 16 pigs, &c.; among these fine animals, is a magnificent bull, which though only 3 years old, weighs 2,030 lbs., and a handsome stud.

The Desert.

This village, so called from the River Desert emptying into the Gatineau, where it is built, is also called Maniwaki. It comprises a mixed population of nine hundred inhabitants, viz: about 500 English and French speaking, and 400 Indians. It is situated ninety miles north of Ottawa city.

Hawkesbury Mills.

This extensive establishment owned by Messrs. Hamilton Bros., has been established for over three quarters of a century. The first firm was Hamilton & Low, who commenced work cutting logs on the Gatineau in 1805. They first began about 20 miles up the river, they have year by year pushed their business northward until they now operate 110 miles above the Desert—own 920 square miles of limits in the Gatineau district and have five large depots connected therewith 30 miles apart.

The Mills are situated about sixty miles from Ottawa city, on the south shore of the river, near the head of the Grenville Rapids. They contain 101 vertical saws and 44 circular saws, driven by 72 water-wheels, and turn out from 35,000,000 to 42,000,000 feet of lumber per annum.

The establishment includes four saw-mills, together with a grist mill, with four runs of stone, for the production of flour for the use of the raftsmen, abantymen and other employees, as well as for the neighbouring farmers.

The present firm is composed of Hon. John Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, and John Hamilton, Jr. The chief business office is at Ottawa, under charge of Mr. Hiram Robinson.

MINING NEWS.

The Brockville Recorder says, a mineral spring has been discovered near Morris-town.

An offer by an American gentleman of \$3 75 per ton for 40,000 tons of iron ore discovered in Ottawa has been refused by Col. Robbins.

Moore & Cutler's timber limits on the Mattawa, 133 square miles, were sold recently at Ottawa, by J. Brower, auctioneer, to J. R. Booth, for \$30,100.

A party of miners returning from the interior of Alaska and the head waters of the Yukon river, report finding numerous gold deposits and indications of rich placers.

The Renfrew Mercury says: Two men are hunting up minerals in the mountain ranges of Litchfield. One of them carries the bag and specimens. Among the specimens is a beautiful piece of marble got in the neighbourhood of Renfrew. Equally as good can be found in large quantities on this side of the river.

THE PRICE OF PHOSPHATE.—The price of phosphate on the canal is now about \$12 a ton, and the demand, we are informed, is more than equal to the supply. This is a good paying figure, and the output should be large this season.—R. Mercury.

The discovery of a gold nugget weighing six ounces is reported from the Delery concession, River Gilbert. Mr. Delery has formed a new company to work the precious metal under the name of the East Branch Gold Mining Company.

During the past year over one thousand immigrants have been registered at Ottawa, all of whom have obtained work in the Ottawa valley. Since the 1st of January 120 settlers, with effects valued at \$10,513 have moved into Ottawa. For the previous year the value was \$5,578.

A citizen of Ottawa has gone to New York with samples of sand found up the Ottawa, and supposed to contain a very large percentage of gold. The object of his visit is said to be to negotiate for either the sale of the property on which the sample was found, or to organize a company for its development.

A French paper says, that Mr. J. Ainsworth, proprietor of lot No. 13 (concession DeLery, in Beauce, has realized something like \$200 a day for some time past. He employs constantly some 35 men. A day or two ago one of the workmen on this lot found a nugget valued at eighty dollars.

The gold mining property owned by the estate of the late Alexander Heatherington, and situated at Carleton, East Halifax, was sold by the sheriff recently and purchased by S. R. Jenkins for \$4,000. The property includes sixty-seven gold mining areas, one hundred acres of land, and buildings and machinery.

The following interesting news comes from Ottawa:—

Hon. R. W. Scott and Mr. W. H. Walker, Ottawa, have been in New York city for some time past negotiating for the sale of the Canada Plumbago Company's mines and works near this city, on the Quebec side of the river. After many false alarms, success appears ultimately to have attended their mission. Mr. Walker, who has returned from New York, states that a new company with \$300,000 capital has been formed in New York to manufacture a new economic material of which plumbago is the principal ingredient—in fact to the extent of 76 per cent. Patents have been obtained for it in the principal civilized countries. The company consists of prominent financial men, and the paid-up capital amounts to \$93,000. At a meeting of this company held in Cooper's Institute, the terms of the sale of the mines were agreed upon, subject to the Treasurer's approval, who was then in France negotiating the sale of the patent for the new material. He expects to realize \$300,000 for patent. The terms of the sale appear to be that Mr. Walker retains one half interest, while the American company takes the other half. The company are to take the plumbago at ruling market prices. About \$800 per ton will be paid for the refined plumbago. Fifty men will be employed on the works at Buckingham, and will work in night and day gangs. The new material appears to be lubricating in its character, as it does away with the use of oil on machinery. As to the other prophecies secrecy is maintained at present.

From Oxford County, township of Blenheim, Ontario, a Drumbo correspondent of

the Paris Star writes that a large bed of iron ore has been uncovered on the farm of John Burgess, within a quarter of a mile of the village. There is only about a foot of soil covering it. The soil was taken off by shovels, uncovering quite a large spot, and the ore lies there in a bed and seems to run downwards from the point and over to Henry Muma's farm. There had been some persons acquainted with the fact for some time, but only now and then poked up small specimens; but now the actual bed has been found, it will not be any trouble to trace the vein. A gentleman who examined it says it very much resembles the ore taken from the Londonderry mines in Nova Scotia. Here is a chance for capitalists to take hold of, as it is within a quarter of a mile of the Grand Trunk and Credit Valley railway stations, and there are excellent advantages for shipping.

600,000 Barrels of Petroleum Wasted.

Since midsummer there has run to waste in the Bradford oil region something like 600,000 barrels of petroleum. A recent dispatch from that region says that there are in round numbers nearly 8,000 oil producing wells in the Bradford district. Their daily yield is 70,000 barrels. The lower or old oil fields are producing 12,000 barrels a day. The daily demand for petroleum is 55,000 barrels. This is the amount now run by the pipe lines. The accumulation of oil for which there is no present demand long ago exhausted the storage capacity. For three months 6,000 barrels of oil have been running to waste every day. There are 2,000,000 barrels of petroleum in wooden tanks at the wells. It is estimated that there are at least 8,000,000 barrels of accumulated stocks in the storage tanks of the pipe lines. The oil that is running to waste is run upon the ground and into creeks. Enterprising individuals build dams along these streams and collect the floating "grease." Hundreds of barrels are pumped off and stored in improvised tanks to await a market. Individual producers are building private tanks to store the overproduction. There are now 400,000 barrels of this tankage in this region. The number of wells steadily increase every month, in spite of the situation.

The Bradford wells are all flowing wells. This fact is what caused the abandoning of so many of the wells in the lower field, they being all pumpers. Until recently the "sucker rod" and pumping engine were almost unknown in the Bradford field. Now they are in demand. Many of the old wells have fallen off greatly in their yield. The supply companies cannot furnish enough sucker rods and engines to meet the call for them. Second-hand ones from the lower field find a ready market at good prices. This resort to the pump is creating no little uneasiness in the field. It indicates that the gas is failing. A flowing well on being pumped increases its yield largely, but the continuance of a full yield becomes uncertain. The positively defined area of the Bradford oil producing field includes over 65,000 acres. There is a well to every 5 acres of land that has been developed, which leaves about 30,000 acres yet to drill. Wells on this territory will not be put down with such reckless haste as has characterized past operations, because it is controlled by large companies of capitalists.

That exquisite monument of ancient Irish art, the Tara brooch, more delicate than the finest Etruscan work, was sold by the finder to a Drogheda goldsmith for \$1,250.

THE London journals continue their commendations of the improved arrangement recently devised for starting cars and assisting the driver to brake up. This plan, which differs from others brought forward for a similar purpose, consists of a system of coiled springs, levers and gearing, placed at the end of each car under the framing, the springs being connected by means of a cross-head and chain, with a loose drum and clutch gearing working on the axle on which the car wheels are fixed. When the signal is given to the driver to stop the car, he releases a lever, which throws a fixed clutch into gearing with the loose drum, to which the chain is attached; the drum then revolves with the axle of the car and winds up the chain, thus causing a retarding force to be exerted on the wheels by reason of the springs being compressed. On receiving the signal to go on the driver releases the clutch from the drum, and the springs, having thus free play, unwind the chain from off the drum; in so doing, the drum, and with it the axle of the car, is revolved in a forward direction, which gives an impetus to the cars.