such a mass of cumulative evidence, both on the part of skilled workmen in this field as well as from ordinary explorers, that we can but come to the conclusion that had such stories of the presence of gold in large quantity proceeded from any other section of the conntry than the Province of Quebec, the influx of gold miners and of capital would have almost equalled that of the palmy days of the Californian discovery.

The evidence presented in the different reports of the Geological Survey is also largely confirmatory of that stated by other writers on the subject; and yet in the face of all evidence tending to prove the existence of a gold field equally adapted for quartz mining, as shown by repeated assays from a number of leads, with that of Nova Scotia, and far surpassing that country in the value of its alluvial workings a feature in gold mining which has in Nova Scotia apparently never awakened any interest, we find not more than three or four companies, almost without capital, trying in a very small way and with the worst appliances and an almost entire lack of proper mining skill, to extract the gold from the ancient river channels, whose presence and richness have been known for twenty years, but which except in two or three widely separated cases, have never been explored to any extent.

The history of gold mining in the Province of Quebec has apparently from the very start been a huge system of blunders, and possibly the greatest, as it was the first, consisted in giving the entire control of all the gold found in the Seigniory of Rigaud, Vaudreuil, on the Chaudiere River, and in which the richest developments yet found are located, into the hands of one person or family *forever*, and without any provision being made for the payment of royalty to the Government, since the clause inserted in the Letters Patent, and intended to cover this point, was so worded that it practically became inoperative ; the royalty only being payable on such gold as was obtained by smelting the ore—a mode of working