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GOLD QUARTZ MINING IN CANADA AND VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.*

BY DR. A. R. C. SELWYN, C.M.G., OTTAWA.

We have latterly heard and read so much about gold in Canada and the marvellous richness of Canadian gold mines, that I have thought a few facts and comparisons respecting gold and gold mining in Canada and elsewhere might be welcome, and serve to satisfy some illusory ideas on the subject. It is said that comparisons are odious, but then, in these days of booming, truth to many persons who have axes to grind or schemes to work, is still more odious and unpopular, but that is no reason for telling that most pernicious and meanest of lies—half the truth. You are all so familiar with the history of gold discovery and development in Canada, that it seems needless to do more than refer to a few dates and documents respecting it. In Quebec its existence was first made known by Samuel Baddeley, R.E., in 1835. In the *Geology of Canada*, 1863, all that was known of its distribution and development up to that date is to be found, and in the Geological Survey Report, 1863 66, are to be found the first records of its development. Then, as now, extravagant figures and estimates were indulged in. About the same time, 1860, auriferous quartz veins were discovered in Nova Scotia, and in 1865 there appears to have been 24,867 ounces raised; in 1866, 24,162 ounces; in 1867, 27,583 ounces, equal to 76,612 ounces in three years. From 1869 to 1874 the average production in Nova Scotia was 18,987 ounces. The first record of the dis-

* Abstracted from a paper read before the Federated Canadian Mining Institute, Montreal.

covery of gold in Ontario is in the General Survey Report, 1866-69. This was the well-known Richardson mine, and the first mine worked for gold in Ontario. Nothing was known about gold or its distribution in Western Ontario till about the time of the building of the Dawson road, and the endeavors of the Geological Survey to trace out and define the various belts of Huronian strata, after having recognized the importance as mineral-bearing series of the great so called Laurentian area, as defined on the geological map of 1866, and the further recognition that these belts were not Laurentian, but Huronian, and the same as the lower copper bearing group of Sir W. Logan, consequently that this would probably be found to present the same mineral character. Of the actual yield of gold from these belts in Ontario to date I have no record, but in the Geological Survey Report, 1872-'73, the new Gold field of Shebandowa Lake is described. Prior to 1885, I find the names of six gold mines that were then working in the Lake of the Woods and Ramsay River districts. These were as under: Manitoba Consolidated, Pine Portage, Canada Mining Co., Lake of the Woods, Keewatin mine, Argyle mine. These were all examined and described in the Geological Survey Report, 1884. Not one of these mines now appears in Mr. Bell's "Index to Mining Companies, 1894." And there is no record of their history other than that above referred to. The result of the work done on them would be interesting, especially if accompanied by a debtor and creditor account. It seems unlikely that the history of gold mining in Canada will differ from what it has been in other countries, and under corresponding geological conditions. In British Columbia gold was first discovered in 1858, and, as we all know, has been more or less profitably worked ever since. The total produce from 1858 to 1894 has fluctuated from \$70,000 in 1858 to \$3,913,563 in 1863, down to \$456,066 in 1894, the total in the thirty years being 3,614,989 ozs. Thus the record shows in every country a steady, though gradual and fluctuating, decline in yield. What the effect of the opening of new ground, better mechanical and chemical methods and appliances may be, we have yet to learn, but it is not likely that in the next thirty years an equal amount of gold produce will ever again be recorded, though the advent and vigorous production of vein mining in British Columbia will have a potent influence in that direction. In the last copy of the *Mining Review* I see a statement that "it is out of place to attempt a comparison between the gold fields of Ontario and those of any other province or county." Why, does not appear, and I certainly cannot endorse the statement. It is only by knowing and comparing with results elsewhere that we can gain a true and accurate knowledge of our own results and possibilities. In any case comparisons are always educationally useful if truthfully and carefully considered, and intelligently applied. All circumstances duly considered, I hold that Australasia is the richest mineral country in the world, and especially as regards gold. I find the following record of produce for quinquennial periods from 1851 to 1893: