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In his Report on the Mining and Mineral Statistics of Canada for the year 1887, Mr. Eugene Coste, M.E., under the head of lithographic stone, regrets that the quarries of that material had not been worked during the year. He points out at the same time that the Bavarian quarries had ceased yielding a sufficient quantity of the best stone for the requirements of the United States market. Under the circumstances it was certainly strange that nothing had been done to develop the Canadian supply. The stone of the townships of Madoc and Marmora and of the Counties of Peterborough and Bruce had been examined and practically tested by lithographers, and, in several instances, was pronounced of good quality. Medals had been awarded for it at various exhibitions. In 1876 lithographic stone from Marmora and Brant was sent to the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia. In describing the exhibits in the catalogue published in that year, the Director of the Survey wrote that during the preceding twenty-five years a number of attempts had been made to quarry the Marmora stone and introduce it to the markets, but without success, and he expressed the hope that the company exhibiting on that occasion would be more fortunate than its predecessors. In 1874 a small steam mill had been erected to saw the stone. Specimens were also sent to London in 1886, but in the following year, it appears, the work of quarrying had been discontinued. Lithographic stone is not mentioned amongst the exports of recent years, though it figures among the imports. It is to be hoped that Canadian enterprise will again find an outlet in this direction.

The exports of minerals from Canada during the last three fiscal years amounted to \$4,300,490, in 1887; \$4,339,488, in 1888, and \$4,673,203, in 1889. In his report of the mineral production of the year 1887, Mr. Eugene Coste gives the total as about \$15,000,000. The largest item in the list is that of coal, 2,368,890 tons, valued at \$4,758,590. This quantity was thus distributed among the provinces of the Dominion: Nova Scotia, 1,871,338 tons, value at mine, \$2,923,966; British Columbia, 413,360 tons, value, \$1,653,440; North-West Territories, 73,752 tons, value, \$156,777; New Brunswick, 10,040 tons, value, \$23,607; Manitoba, 400 tons, value, \$800. The number of men employed was 6,265, of whom 4,367 worked in Nova Scotia; 1,463 in British Columbia; 321 in the North-West Territories; 110 in New Brunswick, and 4 in Manitoba. Next in value to coal is gold—66,270 ounces, valued at \$1,178,637;

next to gold, iron (returns, however, incomplete), valued at \$1,078,728; pig iron being set down at \$366,192, and iron ore at \$146,197 and steel at \$331,199; bricks, valued at \$986,689, come next; petroleum, \$595,868 (763,933 barrels of 35 imperial gallons), being next on the list, and building stone, \$562,267, being next. The remaining minerals are silver, copper, lime, clay products, gypsum, phosphate (\$319,815), salt, pyrites, asbestos, etc. The estimated value of mineral products, of which no return was made, was \$1,610,499.

A curious trade is carried on in fossils in certain districts in the interior of China. One of these fossils, known as the "pagoda stone," is the Orthoceras of the Silurian system. Another is called the "Kosmos stone," because, when polished, it bears a certain resemblance to the Chinese symbol for Kosmos or the world. This is a cephalopod of the Jurassic period. The third of these fossils is called by a Chinese term, which means stone swallows, and is ground up and used as medicine. The Orthoceras and Ammonites are cut and polished, and either framed as pictures or made into ornamental furniture. They are mostly disposed of by the former method, the whole fixture, when completed, and placed on a stand, being not unlike a looking-glass. According to the British Consul at Ichang, about three thousand of these fossil ornaments are annually exported from that district.

How many languages are spoken in Canada? The number corresponds rather with the extent of territory than with the density of the population. It is only now and then that we are reminded of the Babel-like diversity which, altogether apart from the multiplicity of tongues due to immigration from the Old World, prevails between the three oceans and the boundary line. Certainly if it were thought advisable to establish a missionary college in which the languages of mankind should be taught by those who had learned them as their mother tongues, Canada could furnish instructors for a goodly proportion of the classes. No less than eight Turks were comprised in our last year's census of immigration, and Russians, Roumanians and Hungarians have colonies in the North-West. Of the western half of Europe we have no lack of representatives. But, setting aside these imported forms of speech, what a variety of aboriginal languages may be heard within our borders! Father Petitot has given the more northerly a literary rank by publishing the text of some of their traditions. Dr. G. M. Dawson has published comparative vocabularies of the Tinné, Selish and Haida tongues, and the Rev. A. J. Hall has, at Dr. Dawson's suggestion, composed a grammar of the Kwagiutl language. All the tongues of the western half of Canada are comprised by Mr. H. H. Bancroft under the terms Hyperborean and Columbian. In closing his chapter on the latter group, he devotes some attention to the strange Chinook *lingua franca*, basing his comments mainly on the researches of Mr. H. Hale, the ethnologist of the United States Exploring Expedition.

Now Mr. Hale has for many years resided in Ontario, where, in comparative retirement, he has pursued with unabated ardour the studies that proved so fruitful nearly half a century ago. Mr. Hale was the first to deal in a scientific manner with the Chinook "Jargon." Referring to his labours in connection with it, M. de Quatrefages

wrote in the last edition to his work on "The Human Race": "That eminent anthropologist has found in Oregon and north of that country a sort of *lingua franca* which, born at first of the necessities of commerce, is to-day employed almost solely by many individuals. This idiom has already its vocabulary, its rules, its grammar. The elements composing it are borrowed from four languages—two American (Nootka and Chinook) and two European (French and English)." Now, we have just received from the publishers, Messrs. Whitaker & Co., of London, a copy of a most interesting little volume, entitled "An International Idiom: A Manual of the Oregon Trade Language or 'Chinook Jargon,'" by Horatio Hale, M.A., F.R.S.C., member of the Canadian Institute and of a great many learned bodies in Europe and the United States. To this little book—a model of what such a work should be—we shall have occasion to refer at length by and by. We simply mention it now as additional evidence of the attention which the origin, speech and traditions of our Indians continue to receive from our men of research.

It is with no common regret that we find ourselves obliged to speak in the past tense of the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau. He looked so strong, so cheery, so hopeful, before he was seized by the illness that was to prove fatal that, with his other friends, we for a time refused to believe that he was sick unto death. Some weeks ago we were comforted with the assurance that he was gaining strength and that his recovery was probable. But this assurance was not followed by confirmation, and ere long we began to receive gloomy forecasts, which ultimately took the form of sad certainty. For about a week before the fatal hour, the attending physicians had ceased to look for any result but that which we now deplore. It is not long since we published Mr. Chauveau's portrait and a sketch of his career. With his habitual courtesy he wrote to thank us for what we deemed only justice to his talents, character and services. Subsequently he called to express his thanks in person, and we were much pleased to see him looking so hale and hearty. He said he had never felt better in his life, and spoke with characteristic enthusiasm of certain literary projects on which he was engaged. During his life of three score years and ten Mr. Chauveau filled many rôles with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. But to us he was for nearly thirty years the lover of learning, the friend of higher education, the scholar and the man of letters, the sympathetic promoter of our native literature, both French and English.

## CANADA'S PRECIOUS STONES.

Appended to the valuable report on the Mining and Mineral Statistics of Canada, compiled by Mr. Eugene Coste, C.E., there is a short treatise by Mr. George F. Kunz on the precious stones that are found in the Dominion. Although some attention has been given to this branch of our mineral wealth in previous reports of the Geological Survey, no mining for precious stones has as yet taken place in Canada, which, as Mr. Kunz points out, can scarcely be called a gem-producing country. What it possesses in this important department of mineral production is, however, of peculiar interest, some of our gem minerals, though not of gem quality, being of dimensions that make