

productive as ever, soon completely eclipsed all other enterprises, and obliterated even the very recollection of the island's more problematical mineral resources. A few desultory attempts at mining were, however, made from time to time, where indications of various minerals presented themselves in the sea cliffs. The most noted of these was at a place called Shoal Bay, twelve miles south of St. John's, where a copper mine was opened up more than a century since, or about 1778. What the result was, cannot now be ascertained, but I believe operations ceased owing to the scarcity of the ore. It was however, re-opened by Captain Sir James Pearl, R.N., in 1839, and worked for a short time. No records of the shipments, if any, are extant. Quite recently I have seen very good specimens of grey copper ore from this same locality.

Other attempts at mining of much more recent date were made at various points on the Peninsula of Avalon upon small veins, both of copper and galena, but in most cases they were attended with but poor success. The ores, especially those of copper, were usually of a very rich quality, being chiefly variegated, such as copper glance, erubescite, bornite, covelline, &c., and generally contained in quartz veins, but sometimes in broken killas rock, filling small cracks or fissures. The galena, also, frequently occurred in quartz, but more usually in calcareous spar; the La Manche lead mine, Placentia Bay, being a good example.

In 1864, the present Geological Survey of the Island was established, coincident with the opening up of the Union Copper Mine, Tilt Cove, N.D.B. The labors of the one, and success of the other soon created a lively interest in mining enterprises, which at one time reached to fever heat, and then again gradually subsided. At the present time, mining has settled down to a sober, steady industry, slowly but surely advancing in importance with the growth of the country, and increase of our knowledge of its resources. It is not at all chimerical to look forward to a time when mining and the manufacture of metals, &c., will rank second to no other industrial pursuit in this island.

As a preliminary to entering more into detail of the various mineral substances now known to exist in the Island, I presume a short general description of its principal geological features will not be out of place.