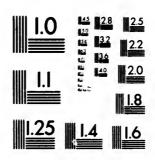
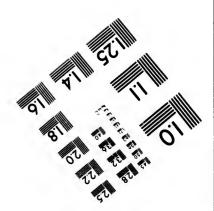


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REPORT

PPON THE PROPERTY OF THE

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD MINING COMPANY

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SHERBROOKÉ GOLD DISTRICT,

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

1: \

ALEXANDER HEATHERINGTON, Esq.

MINING ENGINEER.

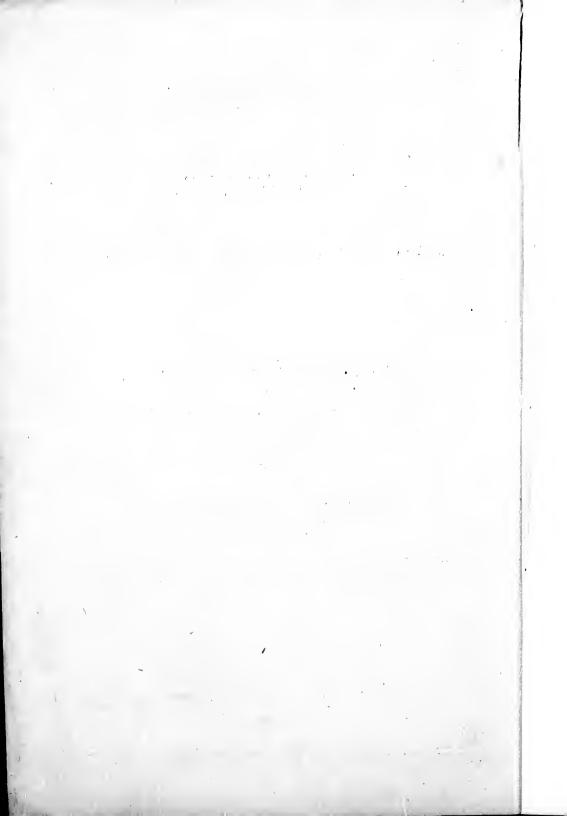
Author of "A Guide to the Gold Fields of Nova Scotia," "Cosmopolites Statistical Chart of the Gold Mines of Nova Scotia," Well &c.

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REPORT

UPON THE PROPERTY OF THE

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD MINING COMPANY

IN THE

SHERBUJOKE GOLD DISTRICT,

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA,

BY

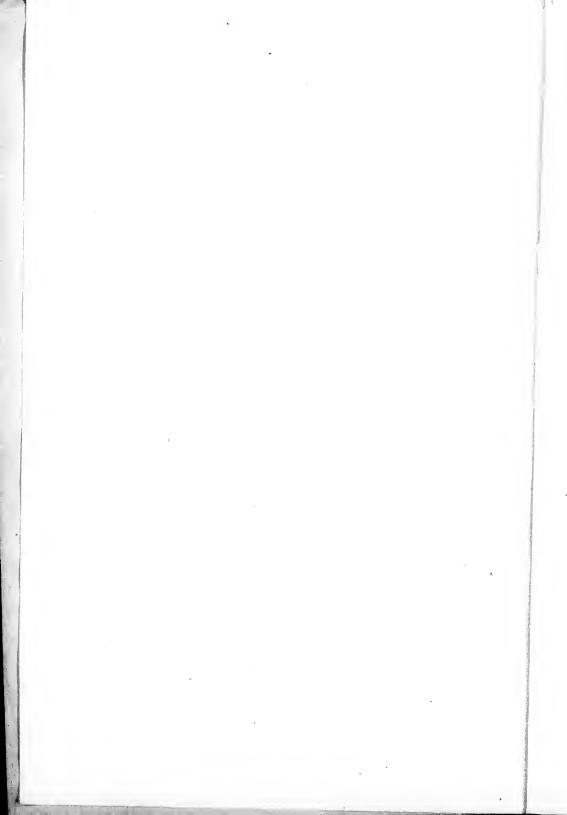
ALEXANDER HEATHERINGTO J, Esq.,

MINING ENGINEER,

Author of "A Guide to the Gold Fields of Nova Scotia," "Cosmopolites Statistical Chart of the Gold Mines of Nova Scotia," &c., &c.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY THE MONTREAL PRINTING & PUBLISHING COMPANY
1867.



SHERBROOKE, Nova Scotia,
7th September, 1867.

To the Hon. JAMES PATTON,

KINGSTON,

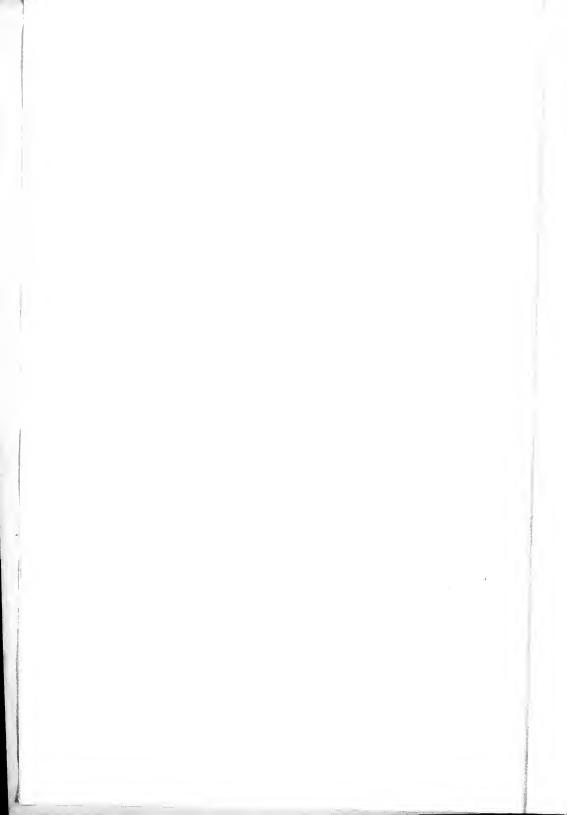
Province of Ontario.

SIR:

At your request, I have visited and carefully examined the Property known as that of the Nova Scotia Gold Mining Company, in the Sherbrooke Gold District, Province of Nova Scotia, and beg leave to submit the accompanying Report thereon.

I have the honor to be, Your obedient servant,

ALEX. HEATHERINGTON, MINING ENGINEER.



REPORT.

Before entering upon a description of the within property, it may not be amiss to submit some general details concerning the district in which the same is situated, it having been my privilege, while engaged in preparing my Statistical Charts now adopted and circulated by the Provincial Government, to obtain an amount of useful information accorded to few in the country, and a great part of which none but myself has taken the pains to collect and place himself in a position readily to furnish.

The first discovery of gold in Sherbrooke was made on the 23rd August 1861, by Mr. Nelson Nickerson, a resident of St. Mary's, in that part of the district now known as Goldenville.

The discoverer operated for some time in secret upon his own account, his practice being to break up quartz boulders in the forest and hand-mortar the contents or pieces, by which means he earned from three to twenty dollars a day. This went quietly on until the last week in October, when parties came upon his track, and a general hunt for gold ensued. It is averred that nearly two hundred persons dispersed through the woods, and, among them, found about twenty ounces of gold on that day. The intelligence being reported to Halifax, a surveyor was directly sent down to lay off areas and grant leases, and active mining operations were commenced before the close of the year.

Here, as in other districts, the failure of the inexperienced and improvident few created a temporary prejudice against quartz-mining; but when the extraordinary results attained by skilled labour, judicious selection of ground, and systematic working began to be felt, a reaction took place in public sentiment, and since the fall of 1862, Sherbrooke has made continuous and satisfactory progress.

The first official records begin with January 1862, but the system did not work harmoniously until July 1863, from which period only reliance may be placed upon the published data; not that it is here implied that the returns were falsified previous to that date, but their compilation was entrusted to inexperienced and often incompetent persons, and the obligatory returns from mill-owners and lessees were not enforced. It is a well ascertained fact that large quantities of gold were mined without being reported to the Commissioners, until the checks and penalties introduced by the Act of May 1863 made it the interest of all concerned to render faithful returns of everything produced.

The gross yield of gold from Sherbrooke District from January 1862 to the 31st August 1867, was as follows:

ozs.	dwts.	grs.
1862—1st January to 31st Dec'r, - 2,023	O	0
1863— " - 3,304	. 14	12
1864— " - 3,419	14	20
1865— " - 3,424	. 1	21
1866— " - 5,829	13	8
1867— " to 31st August, 5,906	9	O
		_
23,907	13	13

The intrinsic value of Nova Scotian gold is \pounds_4 2s. 10d. (sterling) per ounce; but, assuming an average of only \pounds_4 , the value of this yield amounts to $\pounds_{95,630}$ 14s 2d., sterling, or \$478,153.55 Colonial currency.

It will be observed, too, that there is a gradual and, in the last two years, extraordinary increase of production. The product of 1866 was the result of only seventy-four men's daily labour, while the average for 1864 was one hundred and four men.

For the present year, the average daily number of miners has been one hundred and ten (actually 109.9), of whom thirty-seven have been constantly engaged in prospecting and other unproductive pursuits, yet the product for 1867, for eight months only, considerably exceeds that for the whole of the previous year; and if the same rate be sustained until December, Sherbrooke will contribute about eight thousand ounces to the general total.

The maximum yield is no safe indication of a generally rich distribution, but where occasional extraordinary yields do occur, they manifest at least the existence of large deposits. The maximum for Sherbrooke for each successive year reads thus:

				ozs.	dwts.	grs.
1862	-	-	-	13	8	20
1863	-	-	-	146	8	19
1864	-	-	-	23	10	9
1865	-	-	-	5	O	20
1866	-	-	-	16	6	16
1867	-	-	-	13	' 2	4

so that this district has the distinction of having returned the maximum for the Province.

The parcel of quartz which gave this large yield was raised from the Hewitt claim on the famous "Bue Lode," and passed through the crusher on the 17th June, 1863.

Hitherto Oldham was supposed to have given the largest special yield of any district, a quarter of a ton of quartz crushed there having produced at the rate of 116 ozs. 2 dwts, 21 grains per British ton; but the writer, during his present visit to Halifax, has had his attention directed to the original entry, corroborated by oath, of the crushing above referred to. A correction has, therefore, to be made in the returns at the chief office, and in subsequent editions of the statistical chart.

The average yield of gold per ton of quartz has been continuously high in Sherbrooke, and as improved processes fo

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extracting and saving gold are discovered, is likely to become still higher. The subjoined statement, however, could hardly be more satisfactory:—

				Sh	erbroc	oke	Gold Districts of Nova Scotia collectively.			Victoria, Australia.		
				Ozs.	Dwts.	Grs.	Ozs. Dwts. Grs.			Ozs. Dwts. Grs.		
1862		-		2	12	15	I	3	2			
1863	-		-	1	I	б	0	18	10			
1864		-		I	8	14	I	0	20	0	10 б.9	
1865	-		٠,	ĭ	IO	13	I	3	6	0	11 17.4	
1866		-		2	5	18	0	17	13	0	10 16.2	
1867	~		-	ī	IO	12	0	19	10			

The septennial average for Victoria for the years 1859-1865 inclusive was only twelve pennyweights, six grains, and four-tenths (12 dwts. 6.375 grs.) per ton, while the quinquennial mean for Sherbrooke amounted to no less than one ounce, twelve pennyweights, thirteen grains and seventenths (1 oz. 12 dwts. 13.730 grs.) per ton, or very nearly three times as much as the most vaunted mines of Australia.

The most celebrated lodes in Sherbrooke, as yet exploited, are the "Blue," "Hewitt," "Cumminger," "Hayden," and "McCrae," each of which are supposed to traverse the areas forming the subject of this report.

The course of the Blue lode is south, 75° east, and its dip is 40° north. The name is derived from the color of the quartz, which is of a dark blue, and thoroughly impregnated with fine gold. Besides the large yield of 146 ozs. 8 dwts. 19 grs., already referred to as the maximum for the Province, the quartz from this lode has often given as much as ten ounces to the ton, and its average has seldom fallen below three.

The Hewitt is vertical, and is composed of two veins separated by a thin seam of slate. The larger vein is the least productive; but this lode has given larger and more profitable returns than any in the district, the average being four ounces to the ton.

The Hayden lode is composed of several small but very rich veins, and has sustained an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces to the ton.

The Cumminger lode dips 45 ° north, has a band of slate to the north, which has proved exceedingly rich, giving a continuous yield of two and a half to three ounces per ton to the depth of two hundred feet.

A new lode, lately struck, known as the Zwickel, and running almost parallel with the Cumminger, yielded 683 ozs. of gold from 455 tons of quartz raised during last month, and several other promising lodes have been recently opened.

The average yield for each man, in any way engaged about the mines, is the safest criterion of the prosperity of a gold district, and in this respect Sherbrooke takes precedence of any in the world. The results for each year rate as follow:—

ANNUAL EARNINGS PER MAN.

				Sher £			Victoria £	, At s.		JA,
1862										
	-	•	-	118	7	10	67	17	0	
1863	-	-		132	3	10	70	9	2	
1864		-	-	130	15	10	74	1	9	
1865		-		185	14	4	74	4	2	
1866		~	-	323			80	8	3	
1867	(at the	rate	of)	322	9	7			Ü	
Mean	-	-	-	202		_	73	4	О	

The contrast with Australia is important, for it should be remembered that that colony has had fifteen years' experience in gold mining, and possesses all the appliances which capital and intelligence can procure, while here, in Sherbrooke, nearly two-thirds of the miners are self-taught, and many of the overseers are without the requisite knowledge, scientific or acquired, to aid and direct them in their work; yet, as it has been shown, both in its average per ton and per man, this district yields almost treble that of Australia.

Having explained the particular advantages of Sherbrooke over other districts in the Province, and also over Victoria in Australia, I would briefly record my views respecting the property comprised within the areas distinguished by a green colored border in the accompanying plan, and numbered respectively as follows:—

Block 4.—Nos. 469, 470, 471, 472, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600.

The site is well chosen; the eastern boundary of the property is only a short distance from the St. Mary's River, and thus affords excellent opportunity for obtaining cheap water-power.

Its extent is also another great advantage, for it gives room for working and following lodes in the direction of their course. Not a few mining companies have been embarrassed, and have had to cease their operations when coming perhaps to the most profitable part of the lode, because they had not secured working space on the allotment of their territory.

On property so little developed, it is impossible to give any detailed report; it remains only to add that several excellent lodes, such as the "Blue," "Cumminger," "Johnstone," and "Stevenson," have been traced across these areas, and that other new and seemingly productive veins have been bared during recent prospecting.

As an investment, therefore, the acquisition of this property may be pronounced as judicious as any that could be made in Gold Mines in any part of Nova Scotia.

ALEX. HEATHERINGTON.

SHERBROOKE, N. S.

7th September, 1867.

