

## CANADA.—Continued.

In Central Canada, copper and lead ores are found in promising quantities in the counties of Hastings, Leeds, and Lanark, but no very extensive or systematic mining operations have hitherto been instituted. The copper mines of the Eastern Townships have attracted much attention during the past six years; and their value has been, in too many instances, unduly inflated by interested speculators; but although in such cases, considerable disappointment has been experienced by over-sanguine capitalists who have embarked in such undertakings, sufficient has been developed to prove that, in several districts in this part of the country, copper mining may be carried on successfully on a large scale.

The Acton mine, which for three or four years produced very largely with a very moderate expenditure of capital, is now comparatively unproductive. On the other hand, the Harvey Hill mine in Leeds, the St. Francis mine near Richmond, the Lower Canada, Capel and Albert mines near Sherbrooke, and the Huntingdon mine in Bolton, are all highly prosperous and promising undertakings. During the year 1865, the Harvey Hill mine yielded, with a very insignificant force, 390 tons of 20 per cent. ore, worth about \$25,000, and during the present season the produce of this mine will reach 500 tons, worth \$32,000. The St. Francis mine is also being systematically developed, although the number of miners employed is very small; a shaft has been sunk upwards of 240 feet, and levels driven to the extent of upwards of 600 feet. The ore incidentally obtained in thus opening up the ground, has averaged about 55 tons of 10 per cent. per month. At the Lower Canada mine, with a force of 75 hands, 480 tons of 6 per cent ore are extracted monthly; the Capel mine, with a force of 50 hands, has yielded about 500 tons from five to 6 per cent. in their exploring works from May to September of this year, while the Albert mine upon the same veins, and intermediate between the two last named, affords an equally promising appearance. The Huntington mine in Bolton is even richer than those mentioned, yielding about 10 tons of 10 per cent. ore per fathom.

Gold probably ranks next in importance among the metallic productions of Canada; the alluvial gold diggings of the Chaudiere Valley having been pretty extensively, though unsystematically, prosecuted during the last few years. In the Report of the Parliamentary Commission on the Canadian Gold Fields for 1865, the production of the previous year, in the Chaudiere division, is given as \$116,000, which is estimated to yield four dollars per day, as the wages of every man employed. The largest nuggets found have been worth about \$300, and most of the alluvial gold has been obtained within a very limited area. In this district also, and at other parts of Canada East, gold-bearing quartz veins have been discovered of sufficient richness to pay a very handsome profit upon the cost of crushing and separating; for which purpose several mills are now in process of construction and erection.

In the counties of Hastings, Leeds, and Lanark, as also in the Ottawa district, marble, phosphate of lime, and plumbago, have been ascertained to be very extensively diffused. The latter mineral is now attracting much attention among mining adventurers in Canada, which bids fair to become the most important source of supply perhaps in the world. Recently processes whereby the plumbago may be economically and on the large scale separated from earthly impurities, have been introduced into Canada; and one establishment of this kind, situated in the Township of Lochaber, 25 miles below Ottawa City, is now in successful operation.

The only other minerals of economic importance at present being worked to any extent in Canada, are building materials, roofing slates, and gypsum; but of these we have no statistics to offer. There are three quarries of roofing slate in the Eastern Townships, in successful operation. Rock oil has been very largely produced in the townships of Enniskillen and Zone, in Canada West, but no statement of the actual amount produced can be made.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

The mining industry of New Brunswick is, as yet, in its infancy. The Provincial Geologist, De Gesner, reports it rich in several metallic ores, such as iron and manganese. Gold exists in places, copper in others, but no important workings are now going on. The brown building-stone of the head of the Bay of Fundy is a very important article of export. The following details relate to the mines now being worked:—

The "Albert Coal Mining Company" was incorporated in the year 1851. Its paid-up capital is \$238,720, in 5,968 shares of \$40 each. The quantity of coal shipped annually is from 15,000 to 20,000 tons. In 1865, there were 15,790 tons shipped to the United States, 2,260 tons to St. John, and 608 tons to Nova Scotia, amounting to 18,658 tons, valued at the Shipping Wharf in Hillsborough at \$186,658. This Mine is situated in the Parish of Hillsborough, Albert County; was first discovered in 1849, and was worked with but little success for six or seven years, owing to a long and expensive lawsuit connected with it, the want of mining experience brought to bear on it, and the value of the material not being sufficiently understood. Since 1857 it has been doing a good business, raising from 15,000 to 20,000 tons annually. The price of the coal for several years was \$15 per ton, delivered at the Shipping Wharf; but for the last two years it has ranged only from \$9 to \$11 per ton. The dividends, when the price of coal was high, were 115 per cent.; in 1865, about 31 per cent.

There has been considerable difference of opinion amongst scientific men, as to whether the material raised from this seam or vein is a true coal or an asphalt, or solidified oil. For commercial men, the term "Asphaltic Coal" (applied to it shortly after its discovery) appears to have more significance than the term "Albertite," given it by scientific men, as it is applied in the same manner as coal for the purpose of gas and oil making, while it has none of the properties of the asphalt of commerce to make it a substitute for that mineral.

The gas made from this coal is of the most brilliant description. It produces about 15,000 feet to the ton. The oil made from it is the best of all coal oils, and it yields about 76 gallons of rectified oil to the ton.

The seam or vein lies about 25 or 30 degrees off the perpendicular: the depth now sunk is about 800 feet, and the average thickness, which is very irregular, is about 6 feet. The Company have three very powerful engines for raising the coal and keeping the mines free of water. Several companies have been formed, and shafts sunk in the immediate vicinity of the mines, for the purpose of finding this coal, but no seams of sufficient thickness have yet been discovered, although the parties are yet sanguine of success. But little of this material has been found out of Albert County, and none out of New Brunswick. Wm. Ellman, Esq., St. John, is Secretary to this Company.

The Coal Mines at Grand Lake have been worked for thirty or forty years. The coal is bituminous, and most of it highly charged with sulphur. It is chiefly used in the Province for blacksmith's purposes, and a portion of it is shipped to Nova Scotia and the United States. It is found near the surface, in seams of about 20 inches thick, and while several shafts have been sunk to a considerable distance, no working seams have, as yet, been found. In 1865, 529 tons were shipped to the United States, valued at \$2,599, and 453 tons to Nova Scotia, valued at \$1,907—or about \$4½ to \$5 per ton.