

SUBSIDIES TO STEAMERS.

In 1874, the sum of \$10,000 was paid by the Department of Marine as a subsidy to the Quebec and Gulf Ports S. S. Co. for a line of steamers to the lower ports. A subsidy of \$16,000 was also for several years paid to the P. E. Island Steam Navigation

Co. for carrying mails and passengers between Charlottetown and Pictou, but the contract expired in February, 1874, and was not renewed. The number of employees in the outside Marine Service on the 31st December, 1874, was 1,030. The expenditure of the Department, exclusive of the Fisheries Branch, was \$264,000.

Mining in the Dominion.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Gold. The Chaudiere Gold Fields are still inactive, and no change has appeared in their prospects since our last issue. No returns have been received from the mines in operation in Marmora and Madoc.

Silver. Silver Islet has not been heard from, but the 34½ tons of silver ore, worth \$407,325 appearing in the Trade and Navigation Returns for 1874 among the exports of Ontario, must have come from that mine.

"The Lake Superior Silver and Gold Mill Reducing Works Company of Thunder Bay," though not strictly speaking a mining company, has for its object the development of the mining interests of the Thunder Bay region, by providing an immediate market for the ores, especially those of the lower grades. Vast quantities of these ores are on the surface awaiting treatment and have been purchased by the Company on what appear to be favorable terms. The Company expects to have a mill in operation in the month of May next.

No returns have been received of the output of the Thunder Bay district. At "17 E," fourteen miles from Prince Arthur, the shaft is down 40 feet on a 1 ft. 8 in. vein, holding argentiferous galena and silver glance. At Shuniah the east shaft is down 200 feet, and sixty barrels of ore have been tested at Silver Islet Works with good results. "Native 7" has an 8 foot vein, widening and improving with depth, traced for ½ miles. The rock at 40 feet deep is worth \$60 per ton. There is a good show of gold and silver. At the Canada Silver Mining Co.'s mine at Sturgeon Bay, a contract has been given for a 100 feet shaft. The outcrop of the vein shows native silver. The veins of all the Thunder Bay mines are said to resemble those of Silver Islet, except, so far, in the little matter of the proportion of silver to the ton, which it is hoped may increase with depth.

Plumbago. The Buckingham Plumbago Mines have become the property of the Dominion of Canada Plumbago Company, and would appear to have a good time coming if not come.

The deposits on the Company's property have been described in former Year books. It is now estimated that with an outlay of £7,500 on permanent works, the mines will produce from 1,200 to 2,000 tons of plumbago

yearly, of quality suited to all the many uses this mineral is put to. It can be delivered in the English market at half the present cost of plumbago, and at a still lower rate upon the completion of the Northern Colonization Railway. The prospects of the Company would seem to be an unfailing demand for an unfailing supply.

Among the endless uses of plumbago may be mentioned the manufacture of crucibles and retorts, pencils, stove polish, foundry fittings, paint, polishing, gunpowder and shot, electrotyping and lubricating. The demand for cheap plumbago is therefore not likely to slacken.

The factory building is now up, and manufacturing will begin about February or March, 1876, when the various grades will be turned out for all the purposes enumerated above. Sixty or seventy hands are at work. The Company has a saw mill at work on the ground, and all the necessary buildings.

Petroleum. 1874 compares poorly with 1873, as appears from the following statement:—

	EXPORTS.	Ent'd for home Consumption.	Ent'd for Warehouse.	Total quantity Manufactured.
	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
1874.	1,276,611	2,254,183	3,708,119	6,742,282
1873.	9,355,325	3,245,128	11,856,959	14,602,087

Iron.—About 10,000 tons of ore were raised at the Marmora Mines during the last twelve months, but none shipped.

The Ottawa Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company (capital \$50,000) have now four cast-iron forge fires at work, driven by cylinder and stampers of a capacity for eight fires, which will be added in spring. Also a rolling mill for boiler plate, and a trip hammer capable of striking eighty five-ton