

The falling off in the year of 1874 was 131,579 tons, of which 126,425 belonged to the American trade; the obstacle in the way of which is the great and constant fluctuation in the rates of freight. "A mining company cannot afford to assume the risk of delivery at the minimum, nor the purchaser enter into any large contract that may subject him to pay the maximum freight." During 1874 there was a variation from the case of \$1.50 per ton on the final cost of the Nova Scotia coal delivered; where as the American producer knows at the opening of the season the rate of freight throughout. The American purchaser of Nova Scotia coal must also make all his purchases in the six months affording the lowest freights, and accumulate stock in advance of requirement. This is an important question for the Nova Scotia coal trade.

Gold.—"What is the cause of the decline in the gold mining of Nova Scotia?" is a question often asked; for it is only too apparent that year by year the yield of gold is lessening, and the number of men engaged in mining reduced. Seven years ago 27,583 ounces were extracted from 30,973 tons of quartz by the labour of 678 men; and last year but 9 1/2 ounces were obtained from 13,311 tons of quartz mined by 248 men. An answer is not far to seek, but a remedy is not so readily available. Among the causes that have been assigned are—over speculation, share dealing in place of quartz mining, incompetent and expensive management, and, lastly, dishonesty. These all doubtless did exist, and had their influence; and yet the decline continues even now, when most of the causes which are assumed to have largely produced it have passed away. Research must consequently be made deeper, and it is in the mine all advances must be made for the natural obstacles to be surmounted in the mine themselves, such as the excessive thickness of the paying leads, the disproportion of expense of pumping, and an absence of rich finds, and large profits to excite further prospecting, and continued labour in spite of non-success."

"Capital has been already induced to speculate in our mines, but, on the whole, it failed to do so profitably. To turn it again into the same channel will be difficult. It can only be done—now that companies have nearly ceased to interest themselves in our gold mines—by showing that individuals and companies of tributaries can do more than merely make wages by working the out-drops of the leads; and by showing that experience has been gained, economy learnt, and improved methods of mining and milling introduced since the first attempt was made to bring capital into the business."

"Without doubt there are many leads just as rich as any that have been found yet to be discovered; and although wages and the prices of materials have risen, experience in mining now enables leads to be worked and pay expenses that before could not be made to do so. So that while the prospect of a return to the activity of 1867 are not immediate still there is no likelihood of an entire cessation of this industry." (Report of a Department of Mines.)

GOLD STATISTICS—1874.

District	Average men employed.	Crushing Mills employed.	Steam Power.	Water Power.	Quartz, &c., crushed.	Yield per ton.	Gold from Art. Inve. Mines.	Total yield of Gold.	Maximum Yield per ton.	Average yield per man for twelve months at \$ per oz.
Storment	9	1	1	1	238	0 14 5	.....	167 19 20	1 11 15	\$508 90
Wine Harbour	18	1	1	1	1,193	0 10 14	.....	833 11 4	5 0 0	683 40
Sherbrooke	98	2	2	2	5,430	0 13 20	.....	4,037 1 2	4 5 6	741 40
Tangier	17	1	1	1	706	0 11 21	.....	419 7 5	2 7 1	444 01
Montagu	17	1	1	1	496	0 11 11	.....	655 0 23	19 12 22	668 53
Waverley	40	1	1	1	1,644	0 18 11	.....	1,568 12 15	7 0 0	698 13
Oldham	11	1	1	1	527	0 6 6	.....	505 6 11	18 11 16	2,084 73
Renfrew	11	1	1	1	19	0 6 7	.....	8 3 7	0 6 8	50 85
Uniscke	14	1	1	1	83	0 11 10	.....	14 1 0	0 16 0	152 80
Caribou	10	1	1	1	2,979	0 3 8	.....	303 10 23	1 0 23	478 30
Gay's River	13	1	1	1	2,979	0 3 8	.....	461 13 14	6 4 10	810 11
Unproclaimed, &c.	18	1	1	1	303	0 18 9	.....	186 2 4	0 17 12	210 14
Total	246	21	11	10	13,844	0 13 5	.....	9,140 18 9	19 12 22	664 76

Iron.—The Report of the Commissioner of Mines for 1874 gives assays of iron ores from twenty-three localities, showing an average of 55.38 metallic iron. The fuel difficulty, which has hitherto stood in the way of iron manufactures in Canada, is obviated in Nova Scotia, where the necessities for an unlimited iron trade exist side by side. Coal, iron ores, and limestone are all near together.

At the Annapolis Mines (New York and Nova Scotia Iron and Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company) the furnace was out of blast during 1874. Some eight men were employed in mining. It is the Company's intention to establish a foundry and forge in connection with their works.

"The Acadia Iron Mines have also changed hands, and become the property of the Steel Company of Canada (limited),