

having a capital of £500,000 sterling. According to the prospectus, the property consists of 55 square miles of freehold lands together with the mines there under, and the works and buildings thereon. It was purchased for £32,000 in cash, and £120,000 worth of fully paid up founders' shares. During the year but 1,000 tons were mined, the chief operations being on new ground, cutting, exploring trenches, and driving adits.

The blast furnace, burning charcoal, was kept running during the year, and smelted 1,462 tons of metal from 3,097 tons of ore. The steel works were closed, and the foundry alone was utilized. Some 231 tons of ore were shipped to England as a sample. On an average during the last six months 218 men were employed.

"The ore from these deposits is considered more than usually free from sulphur and phosphorus, and especially suitable for steel making. For this purpose the company which now possesses the property was formed, and while they propose to work the main bulk of the ore by Siemens' Direct Process for the production of iron and steel, they also intend to erect two large blast furnaces to use coke and produce foundry pig. Three Siemens furnaces are already built, and they will probably be lighted in April." (Report of Dept. of Mines)

In the Siemens Process the smelting is done by the combustion of gases in combination, evolving a heat estimated at 4,000 Fahrenheit. The advantages of this process for puddling are that the heat can be raised to an almost unlimited degree, that the flame can be made oxidising, neutral or reducing at will, without interfering with the temperature, that the in-draught of air and cutting flames are avoided, and that the gas fuel is free from ashes, dust and other impurities.

Extensive workings are in progress to strike and prove the beds, some of which have been found to be 30, 40, or even 120 feet thick.

Freestone. New quarries were opened at Wallace and Pictou. From Wallace 1,613 tons were shipped to United States and Prince Edward Island. Fifty-five men were employed here. The proprietor (Mr. Battye) has built a new wharf, put up a hoisting engine, and purchased a steam tug to tow vessels in and out. The total shipments from Wallace in 1874 were 6,863 tons, worth \$23,211.

Grindstones to the value of \$17,102 were shipped.

Barytes. This mineral has been found in various localities, but only been mined at Five Islands, whence 208 tons were exported. It is in demand in the United States for the purpose of adulterating white lead.

Plaster. New quarries have been opened, and large shipments are being prepared. The exports in 1874 amounted to \$104,240.

Salt. Salt springs are known to exist in many places. The opening of the coal mines at Spring Hill, and the completion of the railway, ensuring cheap fuel and transit, encourage a further trial of this spring, the brine from which shows from 30° to 35° on the Sal meter, equal to one bushel of salt to 72 or 82 gallons of brine. The proportion of salt would probably increase with depth. With cheap fuel, a ton of salt should be

made for \$1 50, the present price at Halifax being \$7.00.

The Nova Scotia Salt Works Company have all the plant for a large business, but their wells are out of order. The brine of their wells shows 35°. As the Maritime Provinces annually consume about 50,000 tons of salt, a profitable business might be done were the works fairly set a-going.

Petroleum. There are shows of petroleum in several places. At Lake Ainslie, Cape Breton, a hole was put down 900 feet, and yielded, it is said, nearly 100 gallons, after standing for several days. About \$20,000 were expended, and want of funds stopped further search.

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT.
RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE for the Twelve Months, ended 31st December, 1874

RECEIPTS.

Licenses to Search Coal.....	\$4,880 00
" " WORK	2,425 00
Royalty,	71,354 08
Rents.....Gold.....	85,059 03
Royalty.....	1,786 00
Prospecting Licenses	5,685 44
	—————
	\$90,744 47

EXPENDITURE.

Return Licenses to Search Coal....	\$ 259 47
Surveys	100 00
Salaries and Surveys,	1,948 46
Royalty Commission,	131 53
Return Rents,	82 00
" " Royalty,	67 29
" " Prospecting Licenses,	2 00
General Expenses.....	3,795 50
Postage.....	113 47
Stationery and Printing.....	2 687 15
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	\$9,046 57

All the above information respecting the mines of Nova Scotia, is taken from the Report of the Dept. of Mines for 1874.