

Mining.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Report of the Department of Mines, speaks as follows of the operations of 1875: The sanguine expectations of three years ago have not been realized. Instead of the active prosperity anticipated for the

coal trade, this principal mining industry has suffered a serious decline. Many companies having been compelled during the past year to almost entirely close their collieries, with the consequent result, the distress now prevalent among the mining population of Cape Breton.

COMPARATIVE GENERAL STATEMENT.

Mines 1875.	Minerals.	Quantities.			Values.		
		1873.	1874.	1875	1873.	1874.	1875.
31	Coal tons	1,051,467	872,720	781,165	2,699,317	1,787,098	1,434,062
41	Gold ozs*	11,852	9,141	11,208	219,270	164,088	201,756
1	Iron ore tons	3,485	2,469	4,467	10,455	7,407	13,401
	Plaster..... "	120,693	104,140	95,159	120,693	104,140	95,907
	Freestone, &c "	2,820	8,829	5,778	31,532	40,313	39,639
	Limestone "		448	4,860		587	3,872
	Moulding Sand..... "	130	300	100	260	600	200
	Barytes "		208	175		2,060	1,750

*Unsmelted Gold valued at \$10 per ounce.

Gold Mining alone, it will be noticed, shows a slight improvement. The first rally that has taken place since 1870, and the second since the decline in the production began in 1867, when the yield was 27,583 ounces. The advance of more than 2,000 ounces, which it shows over the yield of the previous year, although small is satisfactory, for it holds out hopes that with careful management, there may yet be a revival of this which promised to be an important industry. It is also gratifying to know, that the principal miners are of opinion that the current year will show a further increase.

IRON.

The Dominion of Canada imported during the fiscal year ended June 30th 1875, pig iron to the value of \$1,229,969, and railway bars, fish-plates, frogs, &c., to the value of \$5,239,454; and during the following three months, pig iron to the value of \$237,103. These figures show the large demand in the Dominion for pig iron and wrought bars of iron and steel, and to some degree the extent of the market in which home manufacturers may expect to compete.

The great depression that has of late existed in the iron trade has retarded the development of this industry in this Province. But more attention is now being directed to it, as the extent and character of the explored deposits become better known, and some enquiries have lately been made for rich ores to export, for admixture with the ores of Pennsylvania. Prospectors, however, did little or nothing during the past year to open up new ground.

The Steel Company of Canada have confined their operations at Londonderry chiefly to those of a preparatory character, driving adits and levels to open the deposits, and accumulate stocks of ore on the surface, erecting blast-furnaces, stoves, engine-houses and dwellings, and building tramways and branch railways to convey the ore from the mines to the works.

The mining department has been vigorously pushed on. Some 300 miners employed, of whom 200 are Cornishmen, 130 being imported by the Company; 16 adits in course of being driven; one adit has advanced 580 feet, and has yet 350 to go before striking the one bed at a depth of 150 feet; another has been driven 585 feet, and has to go 230 feet further. A third has been carried 980 feet, and will soon strike the ore. The lowest adit has been driven 1,200 feet. On the east side of Londonderry, on Folly Mountain, five adits are in course of being driven at various depths, the deepest striking the ore at 250 feet from the surface. Total quantity of ore in sight estimated at 300,000 tons.

GOLD.

It is satisfactory to notice that an increase has taken place, in the total production of gold, in the Province. All the districts, except Montagu, Wine Harbor, and the unproclaimed, show a yield greater than that of the year before. The total increase is 2,068 ounces, which makes the production only 644 ounces behind that of 1873, when 11,852 ounces were mined in Nova Scotia. Of the mines in operation,