

valleys of the larger brooks, but the country is generally sterile. The best farms have a rich marl or calcareous lower carboniferous bottom. Hematite and calc-spar are of universal occurrence, the former very pure. Clay, iron, stone, bog iron ore, pyrolusite, copper ore, galena containing gold and silver, molybdenite and gold have been discovered. Coal has been found in three localities in the sandstone, and in two in the carboniferous conglomerate, and gypsum, marbles, syenite, porphyry and granite, fireclay and sandstone can all be obtained on the shores of these lakes.

The results of assays of a number of minerals by Mr. Harrington are given. Those of coal and lignite were from B. Columbia, the coal from the Nicola River giving less than three per cent. of ash and yielding a bright and tolerably firm coke, from the North Thompsons, 13 of ash, a bright firm coke and nearly approaching a true bituminous coal; from the Upper Nechacco, lignite giving 4.8 of ash, and the volatile and fixed combustible matter nearly equal; Baynes Sound, Vancouver's Island, a fierce bright coal; Little Lepreau, N.B., an impure anthracite coal, giving 37 parts of ash and 57 fixed carbon; Port Hood, N.S., a bright coal, but with so much sulphur as greatly to detract from its value; and from Mr. Adam Lake, N.S., a coaly shale having 53 per cent. of ash, but yet coking. The average percentage of ash in 16 samples of Vancouver Island coal was 9.58, and of fixed carbon 59.37. The coal east of the 112th meridian is of inferior quality to that west, the average of fixed carbon for them being only 39.59.

**IRON ORES.**—The hematite from Cape Breton yielded 59½ parts of metallic iron, that from Flamborough, Ont., 28½. The titaniferous iron ore from Shawenagan, Q., gave 34.64 of iron; and from Ste. Julienne, 38.27. The magnetic iron ore from Texada Island, B.C., gave 68.40 of metallic iron, and spathic iron ore from Cape Breton 32.58.

A specimen of MANGANESE from Cleveland, Quebec, gave only 15.15 per cent. of peroxide of manganese. Copper from Polson's Lake, N.S., yielded 11.70 copper, and 35.57 metallic iron.

Of 12 specimens of quartz from British Columbia the best gave 0.335 oz. gold to the ton, and 1.12 silver. From the Eureka Mine at Fort Hope, a specimen gave 221.66 oz. to the ton. A specimen from Batchewana Bay, Lake Superior, gave 15.07 oz. to the ton of silver, and one from Jackfield Bay 0.198 gold and 5.40 silver. One specimen from the Victoria Mine gave 163.477 oz. of silver to the ton, but this was a very much larger yield than obtained from any other specimens from that mine. Two specimens from Hatly and Sherbrooke, Q., gave 2.19 oz. and 10.28 oz. silver to the ton.

A specimen from the calcareous band reached in the boring on Swan River, near Fort Pelly, was found to contain no less than 90½ per cent. of carbonate of lime.

A comparison of Canadian graphite with that of Ceylon, having been instituted by Mr. Christian Hoffman, it was found that in respect to incombustibility the Canadian graphite is fully equal to that of Ceylon, and is therefore equally suited for the manufacture of crucibles.

## Department of the Interior.

### NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

In October, 1876, these territories were erected into a separate Government, and a Council appointed. In March 1877, a Legislative Session of the Council was held, and several Ordinances passed and distributed through the Territories. These were

"To provide for the protection of the Buffalo,

"To prevent prairie and forest fires,

"To prevent gambling, respecting infectious diseases, and respecting masters and servants.

### KEEWATIN.

395,000 square miles of the N.W. Territories, were, by the Act of 7th Oct., 1876, detached from these territories, and erected into the "District of Keewatin." This District extends between 91° 8' and 100° 8' west, and from Manitoba and the International boundary to the northern boundary of Canada. A Council of six gentlemen were appointed, and they were organized into a Board of Health, and took stringent measures to prevent the spread of small pox in the Territory, but the expense being found much great-

er than the Government estimated, it intimated to the Council its desire that they should resign, and they accordingly did so on the 16th April, 1877, the emergency for which they were appointed no longer existing.

### INDIANS OF DOMINION.

The Indians of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (Mic Macs) show a slight increase in numbers during the year 1876-7, they numbering 296. The agent says they have suffered very much from sickness, nearly the whole of the Government grant being exhausted in providing medical attendance and supplies. They had 68 acres of land under cultivation, raising 24 bushels of wheat, 167 of oats and 1,411 of potatoes. The value of their fish catch was \$710, and they manufactured many thousands of butter firkins and baskets. They are represented as desirous of improvement. There was an average attendance of 14 children at the school, about one half of those on the roll. The agent is confident the settlement on Lennox Island will become highly prosperous.

The Indians of NEW BRUNSWICK, (Mic-Macs and Amalecites) numbered 1,425. Those in the north-east are all Ro-