

logical Survey expressed the opinion that the exhaustion of the oil-bearing area was a question of time. This opinion seems likely to be verified. A thirty barrel well is now considered a good one in a district where, some few years ago, wells often yielded a hundred or a hundred and fifty barrels daily. Mr. Engelhart's large well, however, is stated to yield from 150 to 200 barrels daily. We do not know whether the whole extent of the corniferous limestone has been tested, and until that has been done, it would be premature to pronounce upon the immediate future of the petroleum industry of Canada.

About 450 wells are in operation, yielding some 1200 barrels daily. Ninety or a hundred are in course of being put down. The cost of sinking is only about a fourth of what it was formerly, and wells which once took from one to three months to sink, can be put down now in from four to ten days. A well 480 feet deep has been drilled in three days and a half.

The quantity manufactured during the fiscal year 1876-7 was 7,93,754 gallons, against 4,838,215½ during the preceding year.

## QUEBEC.

### GOLD.

Considerable activity has been displayed this season on the Chaudière and its tributaries. Messrs. Lockwood & Co., of Manchester, have some seventy men at work, and are said to be making expenses at least. Several local companies also are prospecting successfully. The Hon. J. H. Pope employs some eight or ten men, who are said to obtain about five dollars per day per man. The gold is merely separated by washing, and much, of course, is lost for want of proper appliances.

### COPPER.

The Canada Copper and Sulphur Mining Company (limited) are working the Hartford, the Sherbrooke and the Acton mines. The value of the products averages \$18,000 to \$20,000 per month. The Hartford mine has a shaft down 500 feet in the dip of the lode, the ore improving with depth. A new mine has been struck overlying the old workings, showing a width of seventeen feet of solid ore. This mine ships about seventy or eighty tons of copper precipitate monthly, averaging eighty per cent. metallic copper.

We believe the Capelton, Harvey Hill and Bolton mines are all doing well, but no returns have been received. The Bolton mine employs 140 men. The railway is completed as far as the shaft.

During the fiscal year 1875-6, Quebec exported copper ore to the amount of 2,222 tons; value, \$351,146.

### SLATE.

The Melbourne slate quarry was opened about sixteen years ago, and after being in the hands of a joint stock company for

some years, and indifferently conducted, has again returned to the possession of a Toronto gentleman, the original owner. It is now worked on contract, and turns out from forty to fifty squares daily. A steam engine has been erected, and the derricks are worked by steam. A mill for sawing and planing slabs is also in course of erection.

The Rockland Slate Company opened a quarry on the same vein, near Kingsbury, seven miles from Richmond. For nearly five years it has been under the management of Captain Jones, who has succeeded in bringing the quarry into good working order. He has lately resigned, and his loss as a practical man will be regretted by the company. The daily output is from twenty-five to thirty squares, besides dressed slabs and paving stones from the mill. The Rankin Hill slab quarry, about three miles east of Actonvale and within half a mile of the Grand Trunk Railway, was opened about eighteen months ago, and has already produced about four hundred squares of slate. The slate beds in this are more easily worked, as they dip only at an angle of from 30° to 40°, as compared with 80° to 90° in the Melbourne district. These slabs also command a better price in the market, as they are of a rich reddish purple in some bands and in others a lightish green. They weather well and do not lose their color. The quarry has attained a depth of nearly forty feet, and a large face is being opened by further stripping. The daily produce is from nine to twelve squares, and preparations are being made for a much larger output next spring. It is quite possible that a profitable trade may be opened up with Europe for these fancy colored slates, as they command double the price of the dark blue in the English market. This quarry and the Rockland quarry obtained prizes at the Centennial Exhibition. A siding from the Grand Trunk will be run into the quarry, thus saving cartage, which in the other quarries amounts to enough to make a fair dividend yearly.

Another quarry has been opened by the same parties about a mile west of Actonvale, but the boulder drift being too heavy to remove by derricks, operations have been suspended until a steam shovel is obtained. The rock is also easily worked here and the openings are right alongside of the railway. These quarries are under the management of Mr. John Stewart, who brings experience and ability to bear on their development, and we heartily wish him every success. — *Monetary Times*, Nov. 3rd, 1875.

### APATITE.

No returns are available of the quantity of apatite obtained, but great activity has been displayed of late both in prospecting and development in the region watered by the Gatineau, Du Lievre and Blanche. To judge by the stream of waggons passing through Buckingham, our fossil fertilizer would seem to promise immunity from short harvests for all time to come.