

NOVA SCOTIA.

The following table shows the produce of the mines of this province in 1876 ;

	1878.	1874.	1876.	1876.
Coal, tons.....	1,051,467	872,720	781,165	708,646
Gold, ounces.....	11,852	9,141	11,108	12,089
Iron ore, tons.....	3,485	2,460	4,467	15,274
Manganese tons.....	181	.....	7	16
Copper, ".....	.....	.....	.....	45
Lead, ".....	.....	.....	.....	9
Gypsum, ".....	120,668	104,140	95,159	80,920
Freestone, ".....	2,820	8,820	5,778	5,905
Limestone, ".....	.....	448	4,860	1,084
Moulding sand, tons.....	130	300	100	227
Barytes.....	.....	208	175	.....

"By this table it will be seen that the product of coal continues to fall off year by year, as also does that of gypsum, each showing a deficit in 1876 as compared with 1873, of 33 per cent. Gold has somewhat increased; 12,000 ounces, valued in round figures at \$240,000, was taken from the quartz. Iron, too, shows a very considerable increase in 1876 over 1873. Lead in paying quantities was only discovered last year, and the nine tons exported were merely taken out to test the value of the discovery. Copper mining, also, is yet in its infancy, while the export of manganese has almost ceased. The value of gypsum exported was \$83,000, and of freestone \$36,000. A good deal of prospecting is being carried on all over Nova Scotia proper and Cape Breton. The value of the mining areas of Nova Scotia alone amounts to a fabulous sum."—*Monetary Times.*

The distribution of the coal sold in 1876 was :

Nova Scotia.....	Tons, 225,653
Quebec.....	" 1,7,303
New Brunswick.....	" 101,8 0
Newfoundland.....	" 51,742
P. E. Island.....	" 46,908
United States.....	" 71,634
West Indies.....	" 17,971
Europe.....	" 1,101

The decrease in the sales of coal last year, 72,588 tons, was almost entirely in

the shipments to Quebec ; and was owing to the fact that freights to that port from Cardiff, Wales, were lower than from Pictou.

The collieries of Nova Scotia employed in 1876, 3229 miners and other workment and 329 horses, and steam to the extent of 1774 horse power.

GOLD.

The quantity of gold given in the above table, 12,089 ounces, is the produce of 48 mines, crushing 15,490 tons of quartz, yielding an average of 15 dwts. 13 grains per ton. The Montagu mines give the highest rate, 1 oz., 16 dwts., 19 grs., their maximum yield per ton being 19oz. The average yield per man per day of all the mines was \$1.94, the highest being that of the Wine Harbour mines, \$2.79.

IRON.

The Steel Company of Canada made a return to the effect that they mined 15,274 tons of iron ore in 1876, and employed, on an average, 72 miners and 87 mechanics, laborers and boys about their several mines at Londonderry, irrespective of those engaged about their furnaces and steel works. Mining operations are now somewhat reduced since the exploitation is so much in advance of present requirements. A sample of the yellow ochre, which is abundant in parts of the Londonderry deposits, was sent to England and readily sold. This ochre has a good dark red color when burnt, and should supply the local market.

In the spring the charcoal furnace was blown out, and as the completion of the coke blast furnaces was delayed until late in the year, little metal was made. Some 300 tons of ore were exported to England via St. John and most favorably reported on. Several lots of charcoal pig were also shipped from the same port at the low rate of 50 cents a ton freight.

Experiments in coking the various available coals at Pictou and Spring Hill received the attention of the Company, and they believing it to be most economical to make coke at their own works, have erected 25 coke ovens to supplement the supply furnished by the Halifax Company (Limited.)

Explorations were nowhere actively conducted during the past year. The only important discovery to be noticed was made at East Bay, Cape Breton, on Lauchlin Currie's farm, some 15 miles from Sydney. The district has been covered by a license to search taken out by Mr. Moseley. The prospecting done on the farm in question has exposed a vein of red hæmatite in a bed of crystalline limestone of Silurian age. The vein varies in the exposures seen, from 5 to 9 feet in thickness, its course is about W.S.W., and the ground is about 400 feet above the waters of the Bay. According to the statements of the people of the district, the surface indications point to the existence of more than one vein and to a probable extension of the series for some 6 miles from French Vale to Thompson's Brook, and even, perhaps, to Escasoni. No analysis of the ore has yet been made.