

COPPER.

Prospecting for copper was conducted in Antigonish county, at Polson's and Lochaber lakes and towards Guysborough, at New Annan and at Cape d'Or.

At Polson's lake, the vein previously mentioned as discovered in 1875, has been opened by a shaft 25 feet in the vein, and its thickness there proved to be about 6 feet. The mineral matter at the point opened is chiefly spathic iron ore, yielding 35 per cent. of metallic iron; it is spotted with copper pyrites. At a distance of 150 feet along the vein, where the cover is reduced from 20 to 5 feet in thickness, another opening was made and the width of the vein determined to be 11 feet. The percentage of copper ore is said to have also largely increased.

Mr. Ross, of Pictou, writes that other explorations disclosed three smaller veins in the same locality.

But the most important discoveries were made on the most southerly of the lots on the 3rd range of the College lands, about 2 miles due west of the Southern end of Lochaber lake, where a shaft was put down, striking a vein, an assay of 7 cwt. of whose ore at Swansea gave 19.21 per cent metallic copper. At this place the following veins have been proved in a radius of about 200 feet, and traced 100 to 300 feet:

No. 1—A 3 ft. vein, holding massive pieces of copper pyrites.

No. 1a—A 4 ft. vein.

No. 2—A 3 ft. vein, holding much ore.

No. 3—5 to 6 ft. wide, with a shaft 86 ft. deep; 10 per cent. ore.

No. 4—2 ft. wide, with bands of ore 2 in. wide.

No. 5—A 6 ft. vein, already described.

No. 6—A 3 ft. vein.

Other veins, from 1½ to 4½ ft. in thickness were also exposed.

LEAD.

At Caledonia, Guysboro' County, just below Smith's Settlement, on the west bank of the river, two narrow converging veins carrying galena were discovered during the summer of 1875. On one of these veins a tunnel was driven in 120 ft. S. E., cutting the intersection of the two veins at a distance of 85 ft.

The vein averages only 1 in. in width, though it thickens in places to 4 in. Beyond the intersection the galena diminished in quantity. Then returning to

the mouth of the tunnel a shaft was sunk 26 ft. and a stope from it is now being taken in on the vein with a better result, though present indications are not very encouraging. The owners, Messrs. McClure and Zwickl, with true mining spirit, are determined to further test the district, and will prospect in other sections this year. Some 13,100 lbs. of very pure galena were extracted and 5 tons sent to England. An analysis of the ore was given last year.

In Cape Breton, on Smith's mountain, about 2 miles from the bridge over the North River that flows into St. Ann's Bay, a quartz vein has been traced for a mile or more, showing, it is said, in the intersections of the brooks. The vein has an east and west course and averages 5 in. in thickness. Where the principal opening was made, it showed some galena spotted with copper pyrites and zinc blende. A sample of 600 lbs. sent to the Institute of Technology, Boston, yielded at the rate of 501 lbs. of concentrated ore to the ton, and at the same rate, 155 lbs. ingot lead and 2.95 ounces of silver.

Of the \$33,000 worth of gypsum mined last year, \$76,735 worth, at \$1 per ton, was shipped to the United States, which country also took \$26,670 worth of grindstones out of the \$36,000 produced. The fine white and colored marbles of the Mountain Marble Quarries were much admired at the Centennial.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Betts' Cove Copper Mine (Mr. Ellershausen) now employs about a thousand hands. Last season about 20,000 tons of ore were shipped, and, it is expected, that that quantity will be doubled during the current year. The deposit is large and well situated for shipping, the cars which bring the ore from the mine dumping it on board the largest ships.

The Union Mine, Tilt Cove, employs about two hundred men, and shipped this year (1877) some 8,000 tons of ten per cent. ore.

The Lamanche and Port-au-Port Lead Mines are doing well.

An English Company is about to work quarries of white and pink marble on the Bay of Islands, in the Port-au-Port district.

The value of minerals exported from Newfoundland in 1876 was over \$700,000, and will probably be twice that amount in 1877.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

COAL.

Notwithstanding the depressed state of the San Francisco market the returns from the coal fields in British Columbia in 1876, show an increase over 1875. The following table is compiled in the absence of the return from the Wellington colliery:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNT OF COAL RAISED AND SOLD IN 1875 AND 1876 RESPECTIVELY.

	Tons.			Total Sales.	
Total output of Coal, 1876....	139,191	15 cwt.	Sold in 1876.....	140,185	2 cwt.
Do. do. 1875 ..	110,145		Do. 1875.....	97,644	10 cwt.
Increase, 1876	29,046	15 cwt.	42,540	12 cwt.