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# GOLD IN CANADA

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THE

**Chaudiere Valley**

AND ITS

MINERAL WEALTH.

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FROM THE COLUMNS OF THE

*QUEBEC "MORNING CHRONICLE"*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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In presenting to the public, in a collective form, the series of interesting articles on the past and future of the CHAUDIERE GOLD FIELDS, which recently appeared in the columns of the Quebec MORNING CHRONICLE, it is contemplated not only to satisfy the demand which has arisen for the republication of the articles in question in handy and convenient shape for purposes of reference, but to assist as far as possible the patriotic object of the proprietor of that Journal in thereby calling attention to an important feature of the mineral wealth of this section of the Canadian Dominion, whose development on a proper scale has unfortunately been too long neglected, though offering numerous attractions to the investment of capital and a most desirable field for the exertions of enterprise.

It is believed with much apparent reason upon the faith of the highest professional opinion, as well as of the encouraging results obtained in the past even under a system of working mainly characterized by wastefulness and inefficiency, that the extensive district known as the gold region of Lower Canada is availably rich in deposits of the precious and other valuable metals, which only require to be wrought with method and economy and with the assistance of the improved appliances of the age, to return large and constant profits. It has also been ascertained that the causes which have hitherto impeded or retarded the thorough development of these great natural resources, have in most measure been artificial and therefore removable; and it is satisfactory to know that, in pointing out this important fact, the MORNING CHRONICLE has taken

the first step towards securing the application of the necessary remedies. Already, the Provincial Government are understood to be seriously moving in the matter, and it is more than probable that the next Session of the Local Legislature will witness the sweeping away of the abuses in the connection, which are so fearlessly exposed in the present pages, and the adoption generally of such much needed measures of reform as are most calculated to stimulate and assist the business of mineral development throughout the Province generally and in the gold-bearing districts in particular.

To promote this good work and to aid in the dissemination of correct information on a subject of so much importance to the general interests of the country are among the chief objects of the present republication, and the public are asked to encourage it accordingly.

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Quebec, February, 1880.

# OUR MINERAL WEALTH.

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## THE CHAUDIERE GOLD FIELDS.

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### ARTICLE I.

From all the information we have been able to glean on the subject, we think we are warranted in assuming that the prospects of gold mining, as a regular and systematic industry in this Province, adding annually to its wealth and importance and affording a means of useful employment to considerable numbers of its population, were never better than they are at present. Indeed, there is much reason to conclude that, with proper encouragement and facilities at so favorable a moment, the working of our gold, like that of our phosphate, deposits, might as a business be powerfully impelled into an altogether new departure, which promises well for the country at large and which therefore calls for more than passing notice from the journalistic pen. That there has been a marked re-awakening of late on the part of both home and foreign capital to the reproductive value of investments in the auriferous lands as well of this Province, as of the sister Provinces of Nova Scotia and Ontario, there can be no manner of doubt. Recent purchases of mining properties on a large scale and at handsome prices in all three Provinces are there to attest this noteworthy and gratifying fact; which is further established by the actual presence, in Quebec at this moment, of Mr. Gordon, an eminent Mining Engineer, who has had vast experience in all parts of the world, and who has been specially sent out by English capital to examine and report

upon the state of matters on the Chaudière. But these by no means stand alone as evidences of the reviving interest in our gold mines, which is, no doubt, to be ascribed to their renewed and increasing reproductiveness under the influence of the more intelligent direction and systematic operations of the few men of enterprise and capital who have, during recent years, persevered in their development in the face of the most disheartening obstacles. They are supported by official reports and the opinions of the well informed, as well as by a multitude of indications, all of which, like coming events casting their shadows before, seem to unmistakably favor the belief (with the proviso already noted,) that we are on the eve of a more extensive and promising movement, looking towards the development of our gold fields, than any yet attempted either by individual or associated enterprise since their discovery. Undoubtedly, matters, for some time past, have been leading up to this point in an assured, but unostentatious manner in the District of Beauce. For instance, in his last published report, which is that for 1878, Mr. H. J. J. Duchesnay, the very efficient and zealous Gold Mining Inspector for the Chaudière Division, felt himself justified, according to the then appearance of things, in predicting the near opening of a new era for the gold mines of Beauce, basing his opinion on such facts as the following:—That the success, which was crowning the search for alluvial gold at a depth of nearly 100 feet below the present bed of the River Gilbert, had encouraged a large number of others to resume the exploration of the different rivers and streams from the old mines on the Gilbert to the River du Loup, on the Kennebec; that nearly everywhere, in 1878, the precious metal had been found at a few feet only beneath the surface of the soil, including a nugget of five ounces in weight in the Ruisseau d'Ardoise, in the village of St. George; that new works had been opened on the Des Plantes River, from which two men, with the assistance of

the rudest appliances, had alone taken out ten ounces of gold in a few days, without counting what had been secretly recovered by prospectors. "These facts," adds the inspector, "show, it seems to me, that those streams are far from lacking in gold, and all give reason to hope that the activity will soon increase, and that, in a short time, the gold mines of Beauce will witness a multitude of seekers for the precious metal extracting from them profit for themselves and advantage for the Province." We have also later and equally reliable details from the same quarter, tending to show that the actual workers there are not alone contemplating or preparing for the carrying on of operations on a more enlarged, thorough and remunerative scale during the coming summer, but that a very material increase of their numbers may be looked for, together with the investment of a large amount of capital and the prosecution of the whole business of gold mining on a wider and more permanent basis. Last season, the search for gold in the division was actively prosecuted, apart from by individuals or those who worked in an underhand way, by no less than fourteen different associations. Of these, eleven, viz: the Canada Gold Company, the Almonte Company, the Eureka, the North Star, J. Payne & Co., J. A. Cameron, St. Onge & Co., Bressette & Co., L. Gendreau & Co., the Victoria, and Lawryson & Co., conducted their operations on the Gilbert, in Rigaud-Vaudreuil; and three, namely: X. Plante & Frères, H. Proteau & Co., and Létounean & Co., worked on the Des Plantes. But, while these regularly established enterprises may be safely counted on for the further prosecution of their undertakings upon a still more active and enlarged scale, other indications are not wanting to justify the belief that next summer is likely to be one of the busiest on record in our gold districts. For instance, we understand that, in addition to the search made last year upon the Ruisseau d'Ardoise and Pozer streams in St. George, shafts are being sunk and extensive



preparations are being made at other points in that parish for regular operations next spring. Upon the River du Loup, near its junction with the Chaudière, in St. George, Mr. A. A. Humphrey erected a dam last year and met with good success, until the frosts compelled him to suspend operations. He is, however, preparing to resume them next season on a much larger scale. At the point of junction of the same rivers, Mr. Goldring erected last fall large works of which a description has already been given in the *Morning Chronicle*, and a rumour, we are told, is current, in usually well informed circles, that he has disposed of a share in the prospective profits of those works, for \$200,000, to a New York Company represented by ex-Judge Dittenhoeffer. Near these last mentioned works, occurs one of the falls of the Chaudière, some 50 or 60 feet in height, and it is said that the American company proposes to construct an immense dam above the cataract, with the aid of which they expect to obtain access to and the necessary hydraulic power to wash the bed itself of the Chaudière for a considerable distance. Very large purchases of lands or of the right of entry upon lands in the parish of St. Francis and neighborhood by Mr. Chas. Lyonnais, with the view of working both the alluvial deposits and the quartz veins, for the precious metal, are also reported, as well as an avowed intention on the part of many others to try their fortunes at the mines next season, while in certain parts of Ontario, the excitement on the subject is described as intense. Altogether, the foreshadowing of a busy future in store for the gold fields of the Beauce district and the prospects, which they hold out of profitable employment to much of our idle labor, are most marked and gratifying.

Under the circumstances, we think it our duty to offer a few observations on a subject which, for many reasons, is invested with great public and private importance. In the first place, we believe we cannot too strictly

caution our people against the fascination which the working of gold mines or rather the independent search for gold exercises upon many imaginations. We cannot insist too strongly upon their recalling to mind the memorable advice of the late Sir William Logan, which, in the light of experience, is as true and applicable to the case to-day as when it was uttered,—that “*while the quantity of gold in the Chaudière Valley is such as would be remunerative to skilled labor and should encourage the outlay of capital, agriculturists, artisans and others engaged in the ordinary occupations of the country would only lose their labor by turning gold-hunters.*” The history of gold-hunting in every country proves that it is only the very few, indeed, who are the lucky ones. Some, no doubt, make fair finds and others make fair wages: but the great majority of adventurers are disappointed. But, while we would discourage those who are engaged in useful and profitable occupations from following the *ignis fatuus* of the gold seeker, we consider that this Province urgently owes it to itself to stimulate by every means in its power the great national interest involved in the proper development of its mineral wealth, and to extend all the reasonable protection possible to those who have already embarked or propose to embark their means, their time and their energies in a pursuit, whose success so largely depends upon the element of chance. In the whole range of Provincial questions, there is none which has been more unaccountably overlooked and neglected of late years, which has suffered more from the bungling, the indifference or the Fabian policy of both political parties, than this one of mineral development. Whether we consider it in its industrial and economic aspect or regard it purely from a political standpoint as affecting our status in the Dominion and our means of self-support, we must allow that it possesses a deep and abiding interest for all parties, which places it in the category of those neutral questions in which they can make common cause to the

greatest advantage for the public good. Indeed, we might go further and assert that the utilization of the valuable mineral gifts, which Nature has lavished upon us, has now more than ever become an object of paramount necessity to the rulers, well-wishers, and people of a Province, whose resources in other respects no longer seem to suffice to the retention and useful employment of its native population, or to the growing demands of the State without recourse at no distant day to the disagreeable and unpopular expedient of direct taxation. Such being admittedly the case, we take it that the movement we have just noted will be hailed with much satisfaction at this juncture. At any rate, it is deserving of serious attention as affording a means of bringing our gold fields once more into prominence and leading to a more exhaustive consideration of the measures requisite to secure their development and working to the best advantage. Of their great value, there can be no manner of doubt. But, in stating this, we have no desire to foster any illusions on the subject or to encourage hopes which the sad experience of the past has only too often shown to be foredoomed to disappointment. On the contrary, as already observed, we would caution our readers on these heads, believing, as we do, with every competent authority we have been able to consult in the matter, that, save in exceptional and extremely fortunate cases, the business of gold mining in this country will not, as a rule, prove remunerative to other than skilled labor operating on a large scale and with the aid of appliances which are usually beyond the means of individuals or private adventurers. The attraction of capital thus becomes, in the main, the great object to be aimed at by all who desire the development of our gold fields. But, to ensure success in this direction, it is needless to add that we must offer an amount of security to capital, which will render its investment liable to no other dangers of failure than those which beset the path of any ordinary commercial venture.

It is generally admitted that, to give a new impulse to the difficult and precarious industry of the gold miner, some important step requires to be taken which will have for effect to satisfactorily allay the troubles to which its prosecution has hitherto been exposed and to permanently settle the vexatious question of the mining rights, more especially in that part of the Beauce district covered by the DeLery Patent, and known as St. François or the Seigniori of Rigaud-Vaudreuil. Without this step, it is believed, with much show of reason, that any attempt to establish it, or to encourage its establishment as a regular and profitable branch of enterprise, must inevitably fail, in a large measure, of success. But what this step should precisely be is not very clear. On this head, according to the interests involved, there is a very considerable disagreement. On the other hand there is a remarkable consensus of opinion that the redress or removal of existing grievances, real or fancied, is an absolute *sine qua non* to the peaceable and remunerative development of the hidden wealth of most of the region in question, and that it is the duty of the Government to take immediate measures for this purpose. Indeed, where the invasion of acquired or vested rights seems to constitute the principal evil and difficulty of a situation, which, under the circumstances, the ordinary machinery of the law appears powerless to alleviate, it is not at all unnatural that the parties interested should look to Government to either guarantee them greater protection or to provide some escape from the insufferable annoyances to which they are reported to be constantly subjected in their properties or their operations. In some opinions, the strict and authoritative enforcement of the existing laws of the country is all that is required to afford sufficient protection to existing rights. But, on the other hand, it must be granted that it is not easy to see the way to a peaceful solution of the difficulty or to the satisfactory development of the mining region, even under

those circumstances, while the validity of certain titles continues to be a matter of doubt, and ignorance or prejudice persists in believing itself defrauded, for the benefit of capital, of privileges which it considers common to all. Of course, in this connection, we refer more particularly to the district covered by and the titles arising out of the DeLéry Patent. It is very far from our idea to uphold the lawless proceedings, which have occurred from time to time in the Beauce district. But we feel that no consideration of the general question, with a view to its proper appreciation and settlement, could or can be complete without taking into account those proceedings and the feelings which have so repeatedly prompted them to the chronic disturbance and grave detriment of the mining interest. In point of fact, it would be idle to suppose that, under our system or with any reasonable prospect of definitively settling the question, any Government could afford to ignore them; and it is this hopeless obstacle which has induced and still induces many reflecting minds to look forward to no permanent relief from the constantly recurring troubles at the gold mines, at least in the Seigniory of Itigaud-Vandreuil, without such a thorough revolution as will place matters there on an altogether new basis. Indeed, we understand that a measure of the sort has been actually propounded or rather suggested, which still finds great favor in some circles, though we must confess that it seems, at first sight, of so sweeping and expensive a character that, in the present financial condition of the Province, we foresee many and grave obstacles to its success. However, as a measure of so much importance and evident necessity is neither to be hastily dismissed, nor lightly condemned, because it simply points the most direct, if the most radical, way out of the labyrinth of difficulties in which the whole question is involved to the injury as well of vested interests, as of the development of the mineral wealth of particular parts of the Chaudière Valley, we propose to do no more for the

present than to briefly state that, failing a legal decision setting aside the patent, it is predicated on the supposition that the Government should either buy out the patent and the titles under it and throw open the seigniority to licensed mining, thus definitively settling the vexed and troublesome question in some sense after the mode in which the Seigniorial Tenure was disposed of. As far back as the early days of the gold mining business in Beauce, the late Dr. W. J. Anderson, formerly President of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society, than whom no one in his time took a more intelligent interest in the welfare of the Chaudière mines, appears to have been impressed with a conviction of the urgent necessity of some step of this sort. In a *brochure* on the subject, which he published in 1872, he made the following noteworthy statement as the result of his experience and reflections with respect to the situation on the River Gilbert:—

“Knowing the very great jealousy which exists in every part of the British Dominion against privileges being confined to a few of the rich and powerful to the exclusion of the poor, industrious and enterprising, on my return from the mines, I published a paper, in which I admitted that, while Government was undoubtedly justified in making the concessions to Mr. DeLéry at the time it did, circumstances were now entirely altered, and I thought it would find, on enquiry, that it might be expedient to resume the patent, *with the consent of and by indemnifying the seigneurs*, as there could be no question that the patent was valid. Government left the matter to the action of a Committee of the Legislature, which unfortunately gave satisfaction to no party, as it neither recognized nor repudiated the rights of Mr. DeLéry, but left the contending parties to fight it out, at much cost and trouble, while, as a consequence, the development of this promising field has been very much retarded. This is the more to be regretted, as the success of the first isolated efforts, though far from displaying anything like scientific skill, was such as to hold out a prospect of very gratifying results.”

With respect to the thoroughness of the remedy above suggested, there can be no question. With regard to its practicability, we will not undertake just now to offer any decided opinion. We rather desire, within the limits of this issue, to call public attention to the circumstances, which seem to justify the prevailing impression that the time has arrived, when something should be done to instil new life into the working of the auriferous deposits of the Chaudière Valley. Among such circumstances, we have already noted the manifest revival of interest in those deposits, which has been unquestionably aroused by the perseverance and success of those who are actually engaged in developing them, and to whose confidence and enterprise we are mainly indebted for the fact that gold mining has not become altogether a lost art, without hope of profitable resuscitation, in this Province. It remains only to refer to the very significant remarks, which fell from the lips of Mr. Premier Chapleau, at the late banquet given in his honor at Montreal, and which certainly seem to warrant, in a measure, the hope that the important question of the development of our mineral wealth will receive some consideration at the next session of the Provincial Legislature with a view to a beneficial change in the present mode of dealing with so great an interest.

In the lengthy and eloquent after-dinner speech with which the honorable gentleman regaled his friends and admirers of the sister city on that occasion, he appears to have laid marked stress on the subject generally of our rich and varied mineral resources and the auriferous deposits of the Chaudière country in particular, going even so far as to predict with much semblance of confidence that the coming summer would witness an unusually large influx of gold miners to that region, to be followed by the resumption there of mining operations on an extensive and profitable scale. Now, conversant as Mr. Chapleau must be

with the embarrassments to gold mining in particular parts of the district of Beauce, which are most affected by seekers after the precious metal, it is obvious that he must ground his anticipations of so desirable a result on something more substantial than a continuance of the *statu quo* in that quarter. The fair inference to be drawn from his language—provided always it can be accepted at its face value—is rather that the Government contemplate doing or submitting something, as a distinctive feature of their general policy, which will either contribute towards or have the production of that result for direct effect. If such be the case, we warmly approve of their intentions. Indeed, we have no hesitation in saying that we shall lend our hearty support to any scheme of an honest and practical character having for its sole object the promotion of the public good in the connection, consistently with a proper regard for the sanctity of private rights and vested interests. At the same time, we think it is much to be regretted that the Premier was not persuaded into being more explicit on the subject. The time and place were, perhaps, not exactly suited to tedious details; but glittering generalities and anticipatory sketches of a fancy character, without something more solid to support them, are at best but sorry food as the times go. They, no doubt, serve a capital oratorical purpose, sound well and read well, and are admirably adapted to captivate the popular ear; but, as a rule, we incline to the public preference for something less vague and more satisfactory. However, if the Government manifest as much ingenuity in dealing with the admittedly difficult question of the proper means to be adopted for the better development of our gold fields as they have displayed tact in seizing upon it and making it a leading plank in their platform, they will leave the public little to complain of in the matter. We repeat that this question is alike important and urgent, and that far-reaching interests are involved in its early settlement. Without proper encour-



agement and facilities, at the right moment, the movement already indicated may either be thwarted altogether or rendered so half-hearted as to prove only another flash in the pan. In fact, it may be fairly assumed that action on the subject by the Government is anticipated and looked for with anxiety both at home and abroad. Then, again, there are public and private rights, as well as interests, which imperatively call for consideration and protection, before they are again exposed to the unsettling causes from which they have hitherto suffered, and this, perhaps, on a more dangerous and difficult scale to cope with even than in the past. We are quite well aware that, with the prospect of renewed litigation in regard to the DeLéry Patent, the question has become more than ever complicated, and that, pending the decision of the law courts—should the question be again referred to them—the course open to the Government is not quite clear. Nevertheless, we are free to say that some steps or other should be at once taken to avail ourselves of the excellent chances now offering to establish, on a satisfactory basis, an industry which promises good results for the investment of capital and the employment of labor, with the assistance of better inducements and increased facilities. It is not for us to say absolutely just now in what direction those steps should finally and conclusively tend; but, for the moment, we may be permitted to point out at least one evil, which seems to us to call for immediate action. We refer to the urgent necessity of at once arresting the baneful traffic in mining lands for speculative purposes. The locking-up of large tracts in the hands of speculators, who have no other object in view than to sell them at fabulous prices and not to work or develop them, is one of the worst evils from which the gold mining interest has suffered, and it cannot therefore be too quickly put a stop to in so far as the still unconceded lands of the Crown in the district are concerned, as its facilitation is not only a fruitful source of injury and delay to the

development of our gold fields, but is productive of most undesirable demoralizing effects upon the character and morals of our people. On the other hand, we think the Government, as well as private proprietors, cannot be too liberal in their arrangements with *bona fide* workers, as there is an undoubted tendency towards the active renewal of mining operations in the Chaudière region which should be encouraged and only requires to be facilitated to expand into a useful and profitable branch of employment for both capital and labor. Indeed, well-informed persons go even so far as to estimate that, under improved circumstances, with a guarantee of thorough protection to individual as well as associated enterprise, with more liberal inducements to capital to operate on a large scale, and with certain wise restrictions against the enriching of speculators at the expense of that most valuable portion of our public domain, the gold fields of the Province, not less than 50,000 men would before long find opportunity for the profitable utilization of their labor in that section of the country alone. This may, perhaps, look like an extravagant estimate; but, even granting that it were reduced by one-half, it still would offer a more than sufficiently powerful inducement to the Government to take up the question and endeavor to deal with it in the broad, public-minded spirit, which we have endeavored to impress upon them as essential to its satisfactory settlement and generally to the inauguration of a more prosperous era in the history of mining operations in the valley of the Chaudière. In the hope that they intend to do so, we propose returning to the question in another issue for the purpose of more fully explaining the important character and value of our gold fields and the lessons to be derived from the attempts made to develop them in the past.

## ARTICLE II.

In our last, we glanced at the present encouraging prospects of the Chaudière gold fields, lightly touching at the same time upon a few of the more salient causes which are believed to have militated against their more thorough development, and dwelling *en passant* upon the great urgency of early measures in their interest viewed from the standpoint of their importance and value to the Province. But, to more fully appreciate this value and importance, it is primarily essential to understand the extent and character of the gold-bearing formation, of which the past and actual workings only from a very infinitesimal part. We therefore propose, in this issue, to devote our remarks to this necessary view of the subject, and this more particularly because it is, in some sense, desirable to combat two very common, but mistaken impressions on these heads, which unfortunately seem to have too long prevailed to the destruction of much public confidence in all or any efforts to render available the mineral resources of the Chaudière Valley. The first of these fallacies is that the gold of that region is, in a great measure, if not wholly, confined to a few rich pockets or deposits on the Gilbert, where the original discoveries of the precious metal were made; and the second, that these placers being exhausted, it will not pay to search for it elsewhere, as the cost would exceed the production. In other words, the generally accepted notion among the indifferent or the uninformed since the great rush to the mines in 1863-4-5 is that there is no more gold to be had on the Chaudière or that, if there be, it will not pay to look for it. Both these disparaging estimates of the capabilities of our gold fields are obviously unjust and seem to have been originally based on nothing more substantial than the hasty and ill-advised reports of unsuccessful adventurers. Indeed, the one is wholly wrong, and

the other only partially right in the sense that digging for gold in the Chaudière Valley or at all points in that valley, can, no more than it actually did in California or Australia, be expected to enrich every tyro, who undertakes the business and whose whole stock-in-trade consists of a pick and shovel. It may be laid down, as a rule, that intelligence in the selection of mining locations, coupled with skill in working and backed by system, economy and a sufficiency of the sinews of war to operate on a large scale, can alone command success. Otherwise prosecuted, gold hunting must be and is, in the nature of things, subordinated to chance, and it is therefore not surprising that ninety-nine out of every hundred, who try it in this latter way, should egregiously fail and curse their luck and the country into the bargain, instead of their own simplicity and ignorance. It is, no doubt, in a very large degree, to such causes as this that we owe the bad name which the Chaudière has been undeservedly obliged to bear for some years as a gold-producing region—a name which has, also, immeasurably helped to retard its development. The more prosperous times in Canada, too, which occurred about that period, by rendering it easier for the majority of our people to better their conditions in the more regular occupations of life than by seeking the uncertain in the valleys of Beauce, had unquestionably their effect upon the mining interest there. But that that interest has, both directly and indirectly, suffered in reputation ever since more than anything else (the bungling or studied indifference of successive Governments, perhaps, excepted) from the exaggerations and illusions of interested parties on the one hand and the disappointment of adventurers on the other, consequent on false hopes, want of means, lack of perseverance and crude notions of the hardships and difficulties incidental to the life of the gold-miner, to which should be added, perhaps, invidious comparisons with other countries like California and Australia still more favored under the head of auriferous depo-

sits, seems to be altogether beyond dispute. As we write, we have before us a letter from a gentleman of the highest standing, who was officially connected with the Beauce Mines at the height of the period known as the gold fever and for some years afterwards, and who furnishes us with at least one very logical explanation of the loose and unreliable manner in which only too many formed their opinions of the place at that time. To show the little value which should have been placed upon such opinions under the circumstances, we quote from this letter:—

“The great drawback, it appeared to me, to the development of the Chaudière mines, consisted in the fact that *they were too near home, and too easily reached*. Men came pouring in from all parts of the Dominion at a cost of a few dollars, and *finding the circumstances of a settled country so different* from the gold fields of California and Australia, where miners had merely to select a spot and dig at once for gold without having to purchase permission from the farmer or owner of the soil, they became either disgusted or disheartened; and finding that it would only cost a few dollars to take them back home again, they invariably retraced their steps and left the mines. If, as in California and Australia, it would have cost them \$200 or \$300 to get home, they would have been obliged, as they did there, to settle down and mine for a living and the mines would thus have become developed. *That the Chaudière is a rich gold mining country*, I can vouch for, by a long and close experience during the years from 1865 to 1870, and I have no hesitation in saying that *more gold has been taken out of this district than any person has any conception of.*”

This view of the situation is unmistakably corroborated by the Gold Mining Commissioner, Mr. DeBellefeuille, in his report of November, 1864, in which he referred as follows in regard to it, as well as to the general character of the Chaudière and its prospects as a gold mining country:—

“The great disadvantage for mining purposes, under which the gold regions are situated, compared to those in California and Australia, is the easy access and proximity to cities, and the thick settlements of this part of the

country, affording thereby an easy exit and cheap mode of living to all miners. Were the miners situated as in the two above named regions, hundreds of miles from any settlement, and with the option of working or starving, it would have altered the entire aspect of this region, and untold wealth would have been extracted from the mines. *As it is, our mines can well compare with, if not surpass, the Californian or Australian mines.*

“It must also be considered that mere alluvial mining has taken place, and that in a very imperfect manner. Some one remarked, last year, that he could not but be struck with the unsystematic and unsatisfactory manner of the works going on here. Since then there has been no improvement, and the consequence must be that at least one-third of the gold must be lost. As a proof of what I advance, I shall cite the following case: A man at the Gilbert mines, by merely washing the refuse-dirt, has realized as much as \$1.30 per hour.

“About five thousand persons visited the mines during the last season, *i. e.*, from May up to this date; of those five thousand, I do not believe that more than three hundred men have remained here. On an average, two hundred and fifty men have worked from the 1st June on the River Gilbert, and about fifty others have prospected on the different other rivers, such as the Famine, Chaudière, Du Loup, Metgermette, Oliva, Kempt, Taschereau, Monument, &c. Up to this date, I compute 116 days' labor on the Gilbert.

“Allowing, at the very lowest, four dollars per man per diem, it will at once give us the sum of \$116,000.

“As I remarked above, if the unfavorable weather the miners experienced in September and October be taken into consideration, also the small space from which that amount was extracted, *viz*: about three square *arpents*, (acres) it cannot but prove the immense wealth of this gold-bearing region. The success, with which the few miners still remaining here meet, is but another proof of the presence of gold in this part of the Province. Only a few days ago one man took out, in one day, nine ounces, and the day previous, the same person had found a nugget of five oz.; that amount was found in a claim, that had been, as they believed, well worked, corroborating thereby what I heretofore mentioned, how imperfectly the mining was carried on.

“It must be borne in mind that all this mining has been alluvial, not a particle having been extracted from the quartz. Some persons may seem astonished that out of five thousand men visiting the mines, not more than three hundred should have remained there. I can only give the following reasons:—

“1. A great many came too early in the spring, viz: in May, the water being then too high to allow mining operations to be carried on with any success;

“2. The prices asked by the proprietors prevented many from purchasing lots;

“3. The delay arising in the issue of the Mining Act, and the uncertainty existing as to its contents, prevented many from mining upon Government lands. Those three causes, together with the facilities of conveyance at every one's command, contributed daily to diminish the number of miners.

“Gold is to be found everywhere from St. Francis to the lines, a distance of  $43\frac{1}{2}$  miles; and if, thoroughly worked for, as on the Gilbert river, would be found in as great abundance anywhere. The native gold is coarse; one does not meet with that fine pulverized gold, as found in California; if so, it is in very small quantities.

“On the River Famine, the gold is also coarse; it is to be found in slate at the foot of the Falls. Experienced men and geologists entertain a very high opinion of this river, from the formation of its rocks and the general lay of the land; I shall subsequently give the production of this river. Works on a large scale are to be prosecuted next year by an American company, whose agent is to remain here during the ensuing winter. As I remarked in a previous report, a road from the Falls to Lake Etchemin would be very necessary.

“On the Du Loup, in its entire length, gold is to be found; also a great quantity of black sand, which has yielded as much as 22 dwts. per ton of 2,000 lbs.

“Some gold has been found at the mouth of the river, which induces a great many persons to believe the presence of quicksilver from the gold found being coated with a coating of silver, and disappearing at a certain temperature.

“Prospecting has also been carried on with good results at the Chaudière Falls, three or four miles distant from the

forks of the Du Loup and Chaudière Rivers. The agent, who was sent here to prospect, informed me that he was perfectly satisfied with the results obtained.

“The parties engaged on the Oliva, Metgermette, Monument, and on many other rivers, have every reason to be satisfied with this year’s prospecting. On the Du Loup, as far up as the lines, different parties have been sinking shafts here and there, and otherwise looking out for good localities, (where they invariably found gold,) to enable them next spring to carry on mining operations, on a scale commensurate with the expectations they have formed by this year’s prospecting. Quartz veins are to be found everywhere from the village of St. Francis to the boundary line. Gold has been detected in almost every vein; there is one particularly in the upper part of the 1st concession, not very far from the Gilbert mine, which produced by assay, viz: 22 dollars of silver and 15 dollars of gold per ton. This was taken from the surface,—the width of the vein being six feet,—and stripped to the length of 40 feet. Another very promising vein, running North-East, intercepted by numerous small veins running due East and West, exists opposite the church of St. Francis on the Eastern side of the village. It is supposed to cross the river and continue on the Western side of the River Chaudière.

“In the vicinity of the Famine, quartz has also been found. The mouth of the Du Loup has also brought out innumerable small veins, running parallel to each other, in which gold has been found. On the Mill-stream and at the Grand Coudee, both tributaries of the River du Loup, quartz has been assayed, and found to contain gold. I forgot to mention that at the Devil’s Rapids, a little above St. Francis, numerous lodes, and some of them very large, are supposed also to contain gold; they here exist on both sides of the Chaudière. About the Metgermette, and the Oliva, fine quartz is also to be met with. Not very distant from those two rivers, quartz was found on the Du Loup, which having been assayed gave eight dwts. to the ton; this was also taken from the surface. Between the Portage and Kempt streams, tributaries of the Du Loup, two large veins are observed; they also contain gold. A short distance from the Monument river, a beautiful vein of quartz is to be seen from which gold has been extracted by merely breaking the surface of the quartz with a hammer; the



same results were obtained by Professor Hinds,—I believe it was about the Metgermette—by merely crushing it with a stone.

“Quartz veins are to be opened and worked next spring at the village of St. Francis; the Devil’s Rapids, where a crushing mill is to be erected. On the Oliva or Metgermette, there is another mill to be constructed. On the highlands of the Du Loup, and I believe on the Kempt stream, veins will be worked, and that with profit. From the opinion I have heard expressed by several professors of geology, who have visited the mines, and particularly the quartz lodes during this season, I cannot but prognosticate great results to the country by the opening of such lodes, and by the proper development of the mines, which lay buried in this extensive and rich region. There is not the least doubt as to the presence of gold, and that in very large quantities.

“Exclusive of gold; rubies, garnets, emeralds, pearls and even diamonds have been found. An extensive trade is carried on by the sale of pearls, some of which have commanded very high prices in the New York and Philadelphia markets. As it is, the results have been great, to this part of the country, by the introduction of an extensive trade, by the diffusion of knowledge among the agricultural class, and the large sums of money that have been left here. Strangers here acquired a knowledge also of the resources, capabilities and wealth of this thickly-populated region which they were far from expecting.”

Any amount of testimony like the foregoing might be adduced to show how unreliable—in fact, how utterly worthless, in the very nature of things—were the accounts, which, for many years past, have insensibly led this Province and its public men into placing a low estimate upon the great interests involved in our gold fields, and the mass of our population into so far despairing of their future as a source of national riches that, in some sense, they have come to be regarded very much as things of the past. Indeed, but for the confidence of a few intelligent men and the perseverance of enterprise and capital, it is more than probable that their epitaph would have been written long ago.

But to return to the principal objects of our present writing. It may be at once stated that, in scientific and competent opinion based upon repeated and careful surveys of the ground by the Geological Commission and confirmed by actual demonstration of the fact in greater or less degree by explorers, gold is by no means confined to the particular localities in the Chaudière country, where it has hitherto been found in most abundance or wrought for with the greatest activity, or is it limited to the Chaudière Valley, in particular, for that matter. As a matter of fact, it may be unhesitatingly asserted that its actual presence has been traced from as far west in the Province as Lake Champlain to as far east as the head waters of the River-du-Loup (*en bas*) and it is said to be highly probable, from the mineralogical resemblance of the region beyond, that it may be yet found to extend to the extremity of Gaspé. Roughly speaking, it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the drift clays and gravels, as well as the quartz veins in the rock formation, of most of the country on the south side of the St. Lawrence between the extreme Eastern and Western points just mentioned, the Notre Dame range of hills to the North and the Provincial or boundary line to the South, are more or less auriferous—the whole constituting an area of about 15,000 square miles, of which some 4,000, comprising the section drained by the Chaudière and St. Francis rivers, are presumably the richest in deposits of the precious metal, or at least thus far have been proven to be so. This, of course, is not to say that it would pay, as a commercial venture, to dig for gold at all or any points within this wide region. But neither should it be inferred, because the search for it has hitherto been most actively, continuously, and successfully prosecuted at such places as Ditton in the St. Francis division, or the Gilbert, Du Loup, Des Plantes and Famine rivers in the Beauce district, that there are not other fields which, on being properly tested, may be found equally, if not more, productive. Indeed, the

abandonment of the other workings or their supposed exhaustion does not appear to be even proof of the fact that they have been worked out or that they would not have yielded handsome returns under different treatment, as we shall have occasion later on to clearly show. On the other hand, although we have reliable information in our possession to the effect that new discoveries have recently been made on the River des Plantes, which is believed will render that stream as productive as the Gilbert, and that another quartz lode has been struck in the diggings on the Gilbert, which promises to be one of the most prolific in gold yet laid bare in that region, even the fact that no discoveries of any deposits or placers as rich as that of the Gilbert have yet been made in the Chaudière country furnishes no reasonable argument against the presumption that they exist and that gold is to be found in paying quantities at other points in the same geological formation and under similar or other conditions. On this important head, the opinions of scientists and practical miners leave little room for doubt. In 1866, Mr. A. Michel, a distinguished member of the Canadian Geological Survey, and a gentleman of great experience in gold mining, who had previously passed several years in closely examining the gold fields of Lower Canada, reported as follows to the late Sir William Logan with respect to the deposits in the Chaudière Valley:—

“The rule which appears to govern the distribution of alluvial gold in all other regions where it has been wrought, holds good in Lower Canada. Here, as elsewhere, the layers of alluvion, which contain the precious metal, are not continuous, but occur in sheets or belts of greater or less extent and of variable thickness. The proportion of gold in these sheets or belts of alluvion is also far from uniform and regular, the richer portions being met with in patches more or less remote and isolated from each other. \* \* \* These general facts are illustrated by the rich deposits met with in several places in the Chaudière re-

gion, as at the Des Plantes, Gilbert and Du Loup, and *it can hardly be supposed that, in so vast a region, these are exceptional cases.* From these considerations, it seems to me proper to encourage the search for alluvial gold in the hope of discovering other rich deposits."

Again, the same authority observes:—

"When we consider that the existence of alluvial gold has been demonstrated over a great extent of territory in Lower Canada, and at the same time take into account the deposits, some of considerable richness, which have been met with on the rivers Chaudière, Guillaume or Des Plantes, Touffé des Pins or Gilbert, Famine and Du Loup, we may reasonably suppose, especially when we consider how limited have been the researches hitherto made, that there may exist in the alluvial deposits of the Chaudière basin *other localities as rich in gold as any yet discovered*, and perhaps over extended areas whose regular working may be made profitable. *The question, moreover, arises whether these rich deposits are confined to the beds of streams, their shores or flats.* It is well known that in the Andes of equatorial America and in California, alluvial gold has been wrought with success, upon the flanks of mountains, and on elevated table-lands, while in Australia the precious metal is as abundant in the dry valleys as in those of the present water courses. A vast field for exploration in Lower Canada is now open, where up to the present time the search for alluvial gold has only been made by the efforts of individuals, of small local associations or of native companies who have employed but a limited capital. The result has been that these workers have been discouraged by the difficulties and obstacles which they met with and have only sought for gold in places where it was possible to obtain it with little expense."

And, in another place, he remarks:—

"All the probabilities appear to me to be in favor of the existence and consequently of the ultimate discovery of *other deposits as rich as those of the Gilbert.* \* \* \* I do not hesitate to say that the various causes which have prevented the general exploration of the region by the searchers after alluvial gold are very much to be regretted."

In 1865, a Select Committee of the Canadian Legislature was formed to consider the best means to develop our gold fields and, among other material points, directed its inquiry to their extent, character, and resources, taking a large amount of valuable evidence on these heads from geologists and mineralogists, civil and mining engineers, practical miners who had worked in the Chaudière country, California or Australia, managers of mining companies, and others qualified to express opinions on the subject. Briefly summed up, the evidence of those experts went to show that, in their judgment and from the practical results they had either obtained or witnessed, not only in the district covered by the DeLéry Patent, but throughout the whole of the Chaudière mining country, no more promising auriferous region could possibly be desired; and subsequent events, though they may appear at first sight to have either disproved or detracted from this favorable appreciation, have not in reality done so, as, we think, we shall be able to convince our readers. Some of the old Californian and Australian miners examined seem to have pointed out striking features of resemblance between the Chaudière and some of the most famous gold-producing districts in those countries, and several of them remarked on the superiority of the water supply in the Chaudière. Said Mr. Thos. Sinjohn:—

“The Chaudière is much more favorable as regards the supply of water than Australia. In many cases in Australia, we had to carry our wash dirt ten miles to the water. We used to dig during the dry weather and have to wait until the rainy season to wash. *The largest gold was always found on the hills.* \* \* \* \* I have reason to believe it (the Chaudière) is a fair gold-bearing country and would be remunerative *if worked on reasonable terms and under good police regulations.*”

In considering the resources of our gold fields and the question of their future development, it is well to keep

constantly in view this important fact of the superiority of our water supply. When we take into account the vast economical uses to which hydraulic mining has been put in California and reflect that, in the opinions of such eminent men as Sir William Logan and Mr. A. Michel, the auriferous drift in this Province covers the hills as well as the valleys, and that the mountain sides may in due course be proven to be as rich in the precious metal as the beds or banks of the streams which lave their feet, it will be readily seen that we are already in possession of one of the greatest levers to success in the development of our mineral wealth. On this head, we shall have later on something further to say; but, in the meantime, we ask the reader's attention to a few short extracts selected at random from the evidence already referred to in regard to the character of the Chaudière as a gold region:—

Herbert Williams, Mining Engineer, said:—

“There is evidently large quantities of gold there, (the Chaudière,) and by the proper direction of labor, the application of suitable machinery as well for the economical removal of the soil, as for the saving of the fine gold, I believe it can be worked to a profit.”

John McCrae deposed:—

“I have been mining on the Gilbert River all my time, and, as for the results, they were part of the time hopeless, but I could never say but there was a sufficient quantity of gold to be found, if people had a sufficient length of time to put their claims in order to work to advantage.”

Andrew Dale said:—

“It is my opinion that the Chaudière district is equal to and, in some cases, better than Pike's Peak, and it is my opinion it might be worked on a larger scale and with good results.”

Speaking of the superficial character of the work done up to that time, Edward Lyon, Mining Engineer, stated:—

“Work on the gold fields has but commenced, and the results have been most extraordinary as compared with the amount of labor and capital expended.”

John Greacen deposed:—

“I think that the gold fields have been worked to a very limited extent, and that, considering the amount of work done, *and the manner of working*, the results are such as to satisfy me of the great richness of the country.”

The late Mr. O. A. Russell, of this city, gave some evidence on the occasion, which is specially worthy of reproduction as regards the resources of the Chaudière country, showing that the indications outside the section covered by the DeLéry Patent are as favorable as within, and, reasoning by analogy, that localities once wrought and abandoned as worthless or exhausted, of which there are many in that country, may eventually turn out rich in the precious metal. He said:—

“I prospected on the Metgermette. I found gold enough to lead to the belief that a first-rate miner would make from \$8 to \$10 per day. The result was equally favorable on the Du Loup and Famine. \* \* \* \* I worked on Carson's Flat (California), being about five miles from it, when the mine there was discovered, and I was one of the first that went to that field. \* \* \* \* Before the discovery of the mine, I prospected there and found the result not as favorable as that I met with in prospecting on the Gilbert. *Afterwards, however, there were great discoveries in Carson's Flat.* \* \* \* \* *I would think that the Gilbert should turn out as rich as Carson's Flat with the same amount of labor.*”

Mr. S. L. French, of Boston, said:—

“We went over a distance of some miles in length up the Du Loup River and the Metgermette, and when I was there I do not recollect in a single instance our “prospecting” for gold and not finding it as well *on the hill tops as in the valleys*. In fact one pan of dirt taken from a spot of one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the river produced more pieces of gold than any pan-full we took out on

the banks of the river. \* \* \* \* In talking with Californians who have mined eight or ten years, and on describing how the Chaudière mines were managed, they have told us that the comparatively small quantity of gold taken out is accounted for *by the slovenly way of mining.*"

Joseph Rigg, gold miner, said :—

"I am of opinion that there are rich deposits there, (Rigaud-Vaudreuil,) and, if facilities are given for the proper exploration of the same, there is no doubt that large profits will be the result."

Michael Cahill, postmaster, Jersey Point, deposed :—

"I have been in the district for thirteen years, and have seen gold found in the Chaudière and Du Loup, Metgermette, Travellers' Rest, Portage, Kempt, Oliva, Lindsay Stream and Stafford Brook. The mines can be worked, I believe, to make them pay, as I can say from experience among the inhabitants of Jersey. For my own part, I have bought gold from them for ten years past to the amount of from two hundred to a thousand dollars each year."

James Bailey, of Quebec, declared :—

"He had worked on at least 60 or 80 gullies in Australia, which did not turn out half as well as that spot on the Gilbert; it had paid much better on an average than many places he had been at in Australia. Canada was much better off in respect of water power; he had mined in two or three places in Australia at which, *if he had had water power, he could have made a fortune in a few months.*"

These few excerpts, from a mass of similar testimony favorable to the Chaudière, suffice to establish its high character as an auriferous region. But it will, no doubt, be said that they do not explain how it is that so favorable a region has not come to be more fully developed. They nevertheless go a great way in doing so. They prove that the business of gold mining as practised in in those comparatively primitive days was not profitable, because it was not systematic and intelligent, and because it was slovenly and wasteful—in other words that it was, in a great mea-



sure, a hap-hazard scrambling, unsupported by capital, exposed to unsettling causes, not the least of which were the inexperience and bungling of the authorities, and pursued under the difficulties incidental to a settled country with vested rights, which were not to be encountered or dealt with either in Australia or California. It is, therefore, not at all surprising that the Chaudière should have been, so to say, abandoned as a gold field in the popular idea of the term ; nor is it to be wondered at that a reaction against it in public opinion should have followed this circumstance, which has more or less retarded its development ever since, with the assistance to some extent of the same vexations as helped to dampen the spirits and lame the energies of its pioneers. However, there is some satisfaction in feeling that the evil has not been altogether unmixed, as it has since afforded to capital, intelligence and perseverance the opportunity of proving that if ever the auriferous deposits of this Province are to be properly and profitably developed, it will and can only come to pass through their combined efforts, and this truth cannot be too strongly impressed upon our Provincial rulers. In no connection, has it been more triumphantly demonstrated than in that of the supposed exhaustion of the rich deposits on the Gilbert, for instance. "Played out" sums up in expressive, if not exactly high-toned Anglo-Saxon the common impression for a long time past on this head. Indeed, no popular error has gained greater ground than this supposition, and certainly none has been more signally refuted by hard, incontrovertible facts, whose teachings, no doubt, apply with equal force to many workings throughout the Chaudière country, which have been abandoned for the same groundless reason. In reality, the most of these old workings seem to have had no other object in view than to skim the upper crust. In point of fact, there is good reason to think that they should only be regarded as exploratory, as simply determining the courses of the

ancient auriferous river beds, which lie in many spots at great depths beneath the present surface, and upon which rest the true gold-bearing strata or richest alluvions; the present streams and water-courses having only been formed subsequently to the drift, which now covers the gold region.

At the Gilbert, these strata, which have been the chief source of all the gold latterly extracted in such large quantities as to re-awaken public interest in the Chaudière country, have, we believe, been only reached at a depth of from 70 to 100 feet. It will thus be readily seen how futile is the pretension that the richest deposits of the Chaudière have been worked out, for, if the theory be good, as it has been proven at the Gilbert, that the true gold-bearing deposits rest upon these ancient river beds at long distances below the present surface of the country, there is no room to doubt that it may hold equally good at the Des Plantes, Famine, Du Loup and other tributaries of the Chaudière, where the surface indications have been shown to be as rich, or nearly so, as upon the Gilbert. This important fact, brought to light as it has been by the perseverance of intelligence and capital, should not be without its moral effect both upon those hopeful and adventurous spirits, who may fancy that the glittering ore is almost to be clutched for the trouble of stooping for it, and upon the Government as plainly indicating the shape which any enlightened policy should take to really and truly promote the development of our gold fields.

We cannot close our present remarks without some reference to the eminent public services which have been rendered in the foregoing connection by such men as Mr. W. P. Lockwood, of the Canada Gold Company, and the Messrs. St. Onge. Indeed, the names of these gentlemen may be said to be identified with the history of mining enterprise on the Chaudière—the one as the representative of English capital and the pioneer of intelligent and

systematic mining on a large scale; and the other as the embodiments of native perseverance and progress. It is to their unshaken confidence in the riches of the gold region and their indomitable persistency in efforts to develop them that the country owes the successful results, which have once more directed public attention to the Beauce district and its wealth of the precious metals. We must also add a word with respect to the past yield of those gold fields, as an important factor in the question of their value and importance. We notice that a writer in *La Minerve* recently estimated it, from the date of the discovery of the precious metal on the Chaudière, at an approximate total of 117,000 ounces, of which about 70,000 were taken from the Chaudière and 40,000 from the Eastern Townships. We are ignorant of the data upon which this writer bases his calculations, but we are free to say that, under the circumstances, they must in their very nature be extremely unreliable. Without pretending for a minute that our gold fields have any claims to the title of an Eldorado, or that, like the Pactolus, the streams of the Chaudière country run over golden sands, we firmly believe, with the correspondent already quoted, that more gold has been taken out of them than any person has any conception of. Indeed, it is morally and physically impossible that the true amount, or even anything approaching it, can or will ever be ascertained, when we reflect upon the uncertainty of the length of time during which the existence of the precious metal has been known to the inhabitants of the favored districts, the spasmodic and intermittent manner in which it was wrought for down to 1864, when legislation first took place on the subject and Gold Mining Commissioners or Inspectors were named, the extent of the robberies practised upon mine-owners and operators by their employees, the inability of the Inspectors to enforce or obtain anything like truthful statements of the productiveness of the various mines, the quantities secured (and unaccounted for) by

“prospectors” and others in an underhand way, and the great secrecy and concealment indulged in to evade payment of unpopular royalties and percentages. In point of fact, the only data at all which can be proceeded upon in the matter are the admissions here and there by miners and others interested and the information so grudgingly yielded to the Inspectors since 1864, and which until quite recently can only be accepted as stating half the truth. The occasional discoveries of exceptionally large masses of the metal or monster nuggets, some of which have been found of various sizes up to 4 lbs. and over, Troy weight, (the largest—one of 56 ounces—found on the Gilbert by St. Onge & Co.) were, however, as a rule, sure to come to light owing to the larger prices frequently obtained for them more as remarkable specimens than on account of the intrinsic value of the gold they contained. The latter fact, no doubt, accounts for the large number of these that have been heard of from time to time, or are to be found mentioned in the various official reports and publications on the subject of the Chaudière mines, their individual values ranging from sums below \$100 to the neighborhood of and even over \$1,100. In 1878, two alone were extracted on the Gilbert, which were respectively worth \$800 and \$612. But these masses of the precious metal have only formed at all times but the smallest contribution towards the great total annually extracted, and cannot therefore be considered as bearing more than that proportion to it as a general whole, while it is estimated that 25 per cent., if not more, of loss must be allowed for, owing to imperfect methods of working and the absence of proper appliances to save the fine gold, not to speak at all of the immense amount lost through the utter inadequacy of the quartz-crushing machinery in use. Accordingly, everything taken into account, we are inclined to regard *La Minerve's* estimate of the total yield, which, at \$17 per ounce as obtained for the ore on the ground by the miners, it values at

\$1,989,000, as being far below instead of near or above the truth. Granting, however, for the moment, that it is approximatively correct, it is well to look at the significant figures and speculations in which it enables our contemporary's contributor to indulge. Advocating, as a matter of necessity, the establishment of a regular Mint in Canada, which would enable, as it did in California and Australia, miners to sell the native gold at its full value, instead of being obliged to dispose of it on the spot or send it out of the country at a loss; and assuming—what is the fact—the presence in the auriferous deposits of the Chaudière of that rare and extremely valuable metal, platinum, of which he claims that 10 parts are lost for every 100 parts of gold, he shows satisfactorily enough on the basis of his total of 117,000 ounces extracted, that the country has suffered a loss equal in actual money to the large sum of \$737,100, which might have been obviated with the aid of proper means to save the waste gold, secure the platinum, and enable operators to sell the native gold at its intrinsic value. It may be remarked *en passant* that the consideration involved in the existence of platinum, allied or otherwise, with the gold of the Chaudière, is a most important one, and should not be lost sight of in view of the great rarity and value of that metal, and the possibilities of the electric light. Incidentally also, it will be noted as curious features of the mineralogical character and wealth of the Chaudière country, that not only is the gold of its deposits allied with silver in a greater or less degree, but plentiful indications of the latter metal separately have been found, as well as pearls, rubies and some other precious stones, pearls more especially, which have sold at good, and, in some instances, even high prices in the New York market. Another calculation made by the writer in *La Minerve* is worthy of note, even if it be of a highly speculative character, and with a brief reference to it, we dismiss our subject for this issue. Referring to the operations conducted by St. Onge & Co. on

the Gilbert, which he claims to be turning out gold at the average rate of eight ounces per day, even without the use of quicksilver, and this within the comparatively small space of some three to four acres superficial—40 men being employed tunnelling at an average of 200 working days in the year, he computes that were one mile square to be worked in the same efficient and thorough way, and to prove equally rich in the precious metal, it would turn out annually close upon some \$9,000,000 worth, not to speak of the vast amount of labor to which it would give employment.

We give our contemporary's calculations and speculations for what they are worth; but, at the same time, we have no hesitation in saying that, with all their seeming extravagance, they point a moral for this Province and its Government, the sum and substance of which, in the memorable words of one of the leading witnesses before the Canadian Legislature in 1865, is that "*the best way to develop the gold region is to afford every encouragement to those who are spending their time and means in endeavoring to open it up.*"



### ARTICLE III.

To enumerate all the drawbacks from which the development of the gold mining interest in this Province has more or less suffered in times past, would require more than the circumscribed limits of an ordinary newspaper article. But, for all practical purposes, they may be divided into two great classes—those of a remediable character which were inherent to the miners and the system of mining pursued, and those which were peculiar to the circumstances of a settled country or have sprung

from a train of artificial circumstances arising out of the discovery of the precious metal. With the former, we have already in some measure dealt. The consideration of the latter brings us face to face with the great question, which, rightly or wrongly, is believed to involve the whole secret of the tardy development of gold-mining as a regular and profitable industry on the Chaudière. It will, no doubt, be at once understood that we allude to the DeLéry Patent, which has been the object of so much angry contention and wearisome litigation for so many years to the admitted injury of our gold fields in general. Indeed, this famous Patent has—so to say—been so identified with the history of mining enterprise in Beauce, and has exercised so marked an influence upon it, for good or evil, that it cannot be dissociated from the consideration of any scheme which may have for its very necessary object the better development of our mineral resources in that region.

For one reason or another, but more particularly, we must presume, on account of the greater ascertained richness of its auriferous deposits, most of the efforts heretofore put forth in this desirable direction have centred in that section of this region known as the Seigniorship of Rigaud-Vaudreuil, which, extending nine miles along the banks of the Chaudière and six miles back on each side, is covered by the Patent, and, under the feudal system established in Canada by the French Kings, was the property of the members of the DeLéry family. It was within these limits that the precious metal in the Chaudière country was first discovered; in and around them the gold hunters have ever since more or less swarmed; and within them capital and enterprise have chiefly expended their energies to establish gold mining on a permanent and profitable basis. The territory included in the Patent must therefore be regarded as the nucleus of the gold mining districts, whose destinies have been in a very large measure swayed beneficially or otherwise by its controlling influence and example.

As the exclusive privileges conferred in perpetuity by the DeLéry Patent are not very generally or very clearly understood, it may be necessary to explain a few of the antecedent circumstances which led to their being granted as a kind of perennial and never-failing source of profit to the members of the DeLéry family.

When gold was first discovered in Beauce seems to be involved in some doubt. The late Dr. Anderson, in the *brochure* already alluded to in these columns, gives the following account of its discovery:—

“The late Mr. Charles DeLéry, Seigneur of Rigaud-Vaudrenil, gave me the following account of the discovery of the precious metals. Some time before the conquest, in the time of his great-grandfather, some Indians had occasion to make an encampment in the neighborhood of his mansion, in what is now the Parish of St. François, and one morning when the fire was burnt out, on raking up the ashes, they discovered a metal which they brought to Mr. DeLéry and which turned out to be silver. Mr. DeLéry sent it to France, where it was manufactured into a set of salt spoons, which were, at the time he related the circumstance to me, in his possession.

“The next discovery, that of *gold*, was made about half a century ago by a woman near the mouth of the Touffe des Pins or Gilbert river, a tributary of the Chaudière, but it attracted no attention. But in 1834, a woman, taking a horse to water at the same spot, saw something glittering in the water, which proved to be a nugget of considerable value as it weighed 1,066.63 grs. No other discovery was made known till the following year, though it is believed that the brothers Poulin had made a further discovery, which induced Mr. C. DeLéry to make a search, which resulted in the party under his direction finding, in about two hours, gold to the value of £18.”

In 1848, Sir William Logan reported that the first piece of the metal had been discovered about thirteen years previously by a daughter of one of Mr. DeLéry's *consitaires*, and that the discovery was first communicated to the



public, not by Mr. DeLéry, but by Captain F. H. Baddely, of the Royal Engineers, through Silliman's Journal in April, 1835.

In 1863, Mr. F. T. Judah, of the Crown Lands' Department, who had been sent out to Beauce as a Special Commissioner to ascertain the truth for the Government of the then current reports about the richness and importance of the Chaudière Mines, made the following return with regard to the original discovery:—

“This last river, first called Touffé des Pins, from the locality where it reaches the Chaudière, has been re-named the Gilbert after the person whose daughter first found gold therein some thirty years ago. The old man, Gilbert, now some sixty or seventy years of age, still lives near the mouth of the river, and I learned from his own lips a recital of the story. It appears that his daughter, in leading a horse to water one morning, found lying in the stream what she supposed to be a yellow pebble of about the size of a pigeon's egg; her father, anxious to learn what it was, gave it to some one coming to Quebec, and the jewellers there pronounced it to be gold. Old Gilbert parted with it for \$40, a sum apparently much below its value. Encouraged by the discovery, he made searches and, on several occasions, found more gold, but not to any considerable amount.”

As bearing upon the question of the justice of the title conveyed by the Patent, it is well to keep in view that the weight of evidence favors the presumption that the original discovery of the precious metals was not made by the Patentees. They, however, appear to have profited by the discovery and by the fact that it had been made within the limits of their seigniory, to advise the Government of it and, as late as 1846, to apply for and obtain from the Crown, *per* letters-patent, an exclusive mining privilege *forever*, not only over their own unconceded lands, but over those which had long passed out of their possession into the hands of their *ceusitaires*, the old settlers of the place;

and herein, no doubt, we have the whole *fons et origo mali* ever since. At any rate, whatever may be said for or against the Patent, there is no denying that it has been a very valuable piece of parchment to its fortunate owners. It would be idle, perhaps, to try to estimate the amounts which they have received from time to time for temporary leases of their rights under it, but it is very certain that they foot up a pretty round total and that the goose of the fable with its golden eggs seems to be altogether eclipsed by the perpetual source of revenue thus conferred upon this privileged family. For the public information, we reproduce the text of the Patent :—

“CATHICART.”

PROVINCE OF CANADA.

“VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN, defender of the Faith.”

“To all to whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may concern.”—GREETING.

“Whereas, our loving subjects, Dame Marie Josephite Fraser, of our City of Quebec, in our Province of Canada, Widow of the late Honorable Charles Etienne Chaussegros DeLéry, in his lifetime also, of the same place, Esquire, Charles Joseph Chaussegros DeLéry, also of the same place, Esquire, and Alexander Rene Chaussegros DeLéry, also of the same place, Esquire, have humbly represented unto us, by their petition, in that behalf, that they are Seigniors and proprietors of the Fief and Seigniori of Rigaud-Vaudrenil, situate in our district of Quebec, in our said Province, and described as lying and being as follows, that is to say : “ An extent of ground three leagues in front, by two leagues in depth, on both sides of the river of the Chaudière Falls, with the Lakes and Islands in the said river ; and that there are supposed to exist within the limits of the said Fief and Seigniori, certain *ores, minerals and mines*, containing gold and other precious metals, of which supposed mines they have made the discovery and are now desirous of digging and working for their own profit, and advantage, should they obtain our Royal Permission to the effect, and further that in obedience to the conditions of the original deed of con-

cession of the said Fief and Seigniorship of Sieur Pierre Rigaud de Vaudreuil, dated at Quebec, the twenty-third day of September, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six, and signed *Beauharnois* and *Hocquart*, and confirmed at *Versailles* on the thirtieth day of April then following, by His Most Christian Majesty Lewis the Fifteenth, they did announce and declare to us for the expression of our Royal Will and Pleasure, the existence of the said mines, within the limits of the said Fief and Seigniorship, at several places therein of which they will better inform us after further researches under our said Royal Permission, which they humbly pray us to grant in conformity with the laws and usages in force and applying in that behalf, so that they may search, dig for, and work the said mines by themselves or by other experienced persons, *offering to pay us the net one-tenth part of the whole produce of the said mines, and praying also to be allowed a remission of the said one-tenth part for a limited time, after the melting of the said ores shall be in operation, to compensate them for the first outlay required.* Therefore, now know ye, that in consideration of the Premises, We, of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Dame Marie Josephpe Fraser, Charles Joseph Chaussegros DeLéry, Alexander René Chaussegros DeLéry, their heirs and assigns for ever, Our Royal Permission and authority to make such researches, in order further to ascertain the position and extent of said mines, and to dig and work the same by themselves or by other experienced persons at any one or more places within the limits of the said Fief and Seigniorship, and for that purpose to erect furnaces, buildings, and other apparatus that may be required to melt and render available, for profit and advantage of themselves, and of their heirs and assigns, all such ores and minerals which they may have found, the whole in as ample manner as may be necessary for the due effect of these presents, and the whole on condition that our said grantees, their heirs and assigns for ever shall strictly conform to our laws and usages in force and applying in that behalf, that they shall well and truly repay to other our loving subjects, such damages and compensation as may from time to time occur, in consequence of the ground occupied, the opening of roads, and other like causes, resulting from the operations in working the said *mines*.

“ And also upon condition, that before working the same they do transmit, and deposit with our Secretary of our said Province *a true and correct statement of the nature, situation and extent of the said ores, minerals and mines.* And further upon *condition of transmitting in each and every year,* to our Receiver-General for our said Province, a true and correct account of the gross produce, of the same in such form and manner, as we, Our Heirs and Successors may be hereafter be pleased to direct, *and also upon condition of well and truly paying and delivering in each and every year from the time of melting the said ores for the first time in working furnaces, unto our Receiver-General or such other person as may have authority from us, our heirs and successors, one net tenth part of the whole gross produce of the said ores, minerals and substances, thereunto appertaining whatever, the said one-tenth part being melted and prepared in the same manner as the like may be for the behoof of our said grantees, and refined according to the Laws of France, as confirmed by the Edict of the late, His Most Christian Majesty, of the month of June, one thousand six hundred and one.* And it is further our Will and pleasure that our said grantees have a remission of the said one-tenth part for five years from and after the date of these presents.

“ In Testimony Whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Province to be hereunto affixed : Witness, Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, Lieutenant-General the Right Honorable Charles Murray, Earl Catchcart, of Catcart, in the County of Renfrew, K.C.B., Governor-General of British North America, and Captain-General in Chief, in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, and Commander of Our Forces in British North America. At *Montreal*, in our said Province of Canada, the Eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and in the Tenth year of our Reign.

“ By Command.

“ (Signed,)

D. DALY,  
Secretary.”

It is not our purpose to discuss the validity or invalidity of the sweeping privileges thus conferred upon the Messrs. DeLéry, as that question falls rather within the province of the legist than of the journalist. But we must say that they appear to have been awarded by the Government of the day with but slight regard for the feelings of the *ceusitaires* of Rigand-Vaudrenil; in gross ignorance of their value, and with great lack of precaution against the possibility of their ever becoming a public abuse. On the other hand, it is not quite clear what the Patentees have done to deserve them or at least to entitle them to their perpetual maintenance. It is true that the late Mr. Chas. DeLéry did spend some money in keeping a mining engineer for a short time employed in exploring the Seigniorship for the precious metals and that, on one or two occasions, as required by their charter, the family did transmit to Government statements shewing the nature, situation and extent of the ores, mines and minerals supposed to exist, containing gold and other precious metals, within the limits of the said Seigniorship. But it does not appear that they ever worked the mines themselves to any extent. They rather contented themselves with letting others do so under lease—the principal conditions upon which the Patent was issued in their favor remaining all the time unfulfilled. In face of the following correspondence which took place some years ago on the latter head, the authorities cannot plead ignorance of the non-fulfilment of those conditions, and it is therefore somewhat incomprehensible that proper steps have never yet been taken to reinstate the Crown in its rights either by resuming the Patent or by insisting upon the fulfilment of the obvious spirit of its conditions:—

“ DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

*Jesuits' Estates and Crown Domain Branch,*

Quebec, 12th September, 1864.

Sir,—As you have failed to supply the returns and make the payments required by the Act enclosed in my letter of

the 4th ultimo, for the territory mentioned in the Letters-Patent referred to in said letter, I am again under the necessity of directing your attention to the matter, in the hope that, by an immediate compliance on your part with the requirements of the law, the enforcing of the same by the adoption of proceedings to exact the penalties provided in case of neglect, may be obviated.

You will receive no further notification from the Department.

I have the honor to be,  
 &c., &c., &c.,  
 (Signed,) A. CAMPBELL,  
 Commr. of Cr. Lands.

ALEX. CHAUSSEGROS DELÉRY, Esq."

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“Quebec, 5th October, 1861.

SIR,—In answer to your letters, asking Mr. DeLéry a statement of the quantity of gold found by him in the Seigniorie Rigaud-Vaudreuil, before the passing of the Act 27 and 28 Vic., chap. 9, in virtue of the 33rd clause of the said Act, we are authorized by Mr. DeLéry to answer that he never either worked himself or caused to be worked any gold mines in the said Seigniorie by virtue of the Letters-Patent that he has from the Crown, and that therefore it is impossible for him to comply with your demand. For some years past Doctor Douglas, of Beauport, has held the right of working the said gold mines, in virtue of a lease granted him by Mr. DeLéry. Immediately after the passing of the Act 27 and 28 Vic., chap. 9, Mr. DeLéry, by protest before notaries, notified Dr. Douglas to conform himself to the section 33 of the said Act, as regards the Government. Mr. DeLéry is not aware whether Doctor Douglas did so.

Mr. DeLéry has also directed us to inform you, that he did not think himself in all cases obliged to conform to the section 33 of the said Act, in rendering to Government the statements ordered by the said section, since the spirit of the law was to aid the Government in collecting what might be due to it under certain Letters-Patent, and that

Mr. DeLéry, neither by himself nor by others, has ever worked the gold mines in the limits prescribed by the said Letters-Patent in such a manner as to owe the Government any sums whatever.

We remain, &c., &c.,  
 (Signed,) TASCHEREAU & BLANCHET,  
 Attorneys.

The Honorable A. CAMPBELL,  
 Commissioner of Crown Lands."

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" DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,  
*Jesuits' Estates and Crown Domain Branch,*

Quebec, 24th October, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following case for your opinion, viz. :—

On the 14th September, 1846, upon petition of the then Seigneurs of the Seignior of Rigaud-Vaudreuil (herewith,) that according to the laws of France they were entitled to a preference to work certain mines of gold and other precious metals in the said Seignior, Letters-Patent (copy also herewith) issued in their favor, granting such right to them, their heirs and assigns for ever, subject to certain conditions, expressed in said Letters-Patent, and among others, to the payment of a Royalty of 10 per cent. on the whole gross produce of the ores, from the time of melting (smelting) the said ores for the first time in working furnaces.

By the 33rd and 34th sections of an Act of the Provincial Parliament, 27 and 28 Vict., cap. 9, intituled: "The Gold Mining Act," persons who have mined for gold under Letters-Patent are held to furnish accounts and pay over amounts due to the Crown under a penalty.

Considerable mining operations have taken place in the Seignior above mentioned since the issue of the Patent, more particularly during last year and the present one, when large sums of money have been taken out in alluvial diggings.

The Department having been informed that Mr. Alexandre Chaussegros DeLéry is now the sole owner of the the said Seignior, on the 21st August and 12th September last, called his attention by letters to the clause of the act above referred to, requiring him to furnish the returns and pay over the Royalty to the Crown, in reply to which, Mr. DeLéry *per* attorney states:—

1st. That on the 9th September last, he leased his rights under the Patent for 30 years to a Mr. Trueman Coman.

2nd. That he has never worked the gold mines in the said Seignior, by himself or others, and cannot therefore conform to the request of the Government. That Dr. Douglas, since some years, possessed the right to said mines under a lease from him, Mr. DeLéry, (doubtless that to be found in *tiasse* 41' 753 herewith) and that he has notified Dr. Douglas to conform to the law.

Further, that in any case he does not deem himself obliged to furnish the returns required by the 33rd section of the Act, as he has never, by himself or others, worked the said mines under the prescribed terms (*limites prescrites*) of the Patent, so as to have become indebted to the Crown in any sum whatever, referring, no doubt, to the smelting operation alluded to in the Patent.

Up to last year, exclusively, what little mining was done, appears to have been conducted by Dr. Douglas, but during the last two seasons, by the proprietors of the soil or parties holding under them, with the exception of some slight operations by other parties holding under a sub-lease from Dr. Douglas.

The smelting furnaces referred to in the Patent, and then supposed to be the method by which the metal would be extracted, have never been, and probably never will be used, as the present system in use elsewhere is to crush the quartz and collect the gold by amalgamation with mercury. Moreover, the only mines which have been worked up till now in the Seignior are alluvial ones.

*If Mr. DeLéry, or his assignees, can evade the payment of the Royalty, for both or either of the above reasons, the Crown will find itself deprived of any return whatever from these mines, in every place where other parties than they may work, for the existence of the Patent precludes the exaction of license fees under "The Gold Mining Act," and in that case the propriety would suggest itself of the Government taking legal steps*



*to obtain the cancellation of the Patent, either on the ground of improvidence, should you be of opinion that Mr. DeLéry had no preferential right in law to obtain it, or for such other reasons as you may consider available.*

I would therefore thank you for your opinion,—firstly, on the liability of the Patentees and Assignees,—secondly, whether the Government is held to recognize the latter, and thirdly, if the liability of one or the other does not exist under the circumstances and the Crown has no means of enforcing its rightful and equitable claim, whether some and what steps ought to be taken by the Government to obtain a cancellation of the Patent.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. CAMPBELL,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The Honorable

The Attorney-General

for Lower Canada, &c., &c., &c."

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“DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,

*Jesuits' Estates and Crown Domain Branch,*

Quebec, 9th November, 1864.

SIR,—I would beg to call your attention to my letter of the 24th ultimo, having reference to the DeLéry Patent case.

Nearly all the mining operations of the past and present season have been carried on exclusively in the Seigniorship of Rigaud-Vaudreuil, the Crown having only received for license fees elsewhere some \$66, while it is reported that about \$50,000 were taken out in the Seigniorship in question last season and at least \$100,000 during the present one, the Crown Royalty on which alone, without reference to previous operations, under the Patent, reaches \$15,000, *of which no part whatever has been received.*

As the public revenue suffers from the Crown being deprived of these, its just rights, it is most desirable that

something should be done towards securing these rights, as well for the past as for the future, and I have therefore the honor to request you to be so good as to give the matter as early an attention as you conveniently can, with a view to suggest some means to arrive at the object sought by the Department, viz. : the collection of all arrears and future payment of the Royalty.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. CAMPBELL,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The Honorable

The Attorney-General,

for Lower Canada, &c., &c., &c."

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The altogether one-sided construction placed by Mr. DeLéry upon the contract between himself and the Crown cannot fail to strike the unprofessional mind as somewhat extraordinary. But that there should be no mistake whatever about the position he assumes in the matter, he had no hesitation in declaring, in his examination before the Committee of 1865, that the Crown was not to expect any compensating advantages for the privileges it had bestowed upon him, as the following extracts from his evidence will establish:—

"I claim as my exclusive property the right of mining for gold and the gold in the Seigniory of Vaudreuil, and I do not consider myself liable for the royalty of 10 per cent."

"I am not aware of any royalty having been paid to the Government, *nor that any is due.*"

"I am to pay a royalty of 10 per cent., when the high furnaces are employed, *and they have never been employed yet.*"

In other words, until it suits Mr. DeLéry's good will and pleasure to provide appliances which, in the nature of things, will never be provided, he is to escape from any return to the country for the privileges he enjoys. This is

certainly a rather peculiar state of things, and it is not easy to understand how it can be maintained either in law or equity or with a proper regard for the public interests.

There seems to be no doubt, however, that the DeLéry Patent has been in a certain sense beneficial. In competent opinion it has been the means of attracting capital to the development of the gold-mining interest, by furnishing opportunity and inducements to investments by companies on a large scale, which are believed to be the best calculated to ensure success in the Chaudière country. But if it ever possessed those advantages, there is much reason to believe that it has served as well as outlived its purpose, and that the great confusion, of which it has, rightly or wrongly, been the cause, will never be completely removed without measures of relief to the long-standing grievances, real or sentimental, which exist between the owners of the soil and the owners or lessees of the patent, and which have so much contributed to the disrepute and the dilatory development of our gold fields. Plainly speaking, such exclusive privileges over the properties of others as those conferred by the DeLéry Patent are neither suited to the present state of society, nor to the spirit of our free institutions on this Continent. Their place was in the feudal age; their existence at this stage of the nineteenth century is an anomaly and a satire upon our civilization. In fact, they are the relics of an antiquated system, and with that system, when the Seigniorial Tenure was abolished, they should have gone out forever. We therefore strongly incline to the opinion of the late Dr. Anderson that, however the Government may have been justified in making the concession to Mr. DeLéry in 1846, circumstances have now altered to such an extent that that concession can be no longer maintained without injury to the public interests. Dr. Anderson claimed that steps for this purpose should be taken *with the consent of and by indemnifying the Seigniors.*

If compliance with these preliminaries be an absolute condition precedent to the removal of the patent as a present impediment to the development of the important interests involved in our gold-fields, then, of course, it will have to be made. But, without at all wishing to do or say anything savoring of injustice to the patentees, we must frankly avow that we cannot, for the life of us, perceive upon what a claim for indemnity on their part could be equitably founded. At all events, it is reasonable to presume that, should the Government contemplate or entertain any arrangement providing for the resumption of the patent upon such a basis, proper allowance will be made, in view of the actual condition of the finances of the Province, as well for the non-fulfilment of the spirit of its conditions, as for the large sums already received by the patentees for leases of their privileges under it, without adequate compensation to the Crown or the public. We can readily understand that the lessees of their rights, who have gone to great actual trouble and expense to develop the hidden wealth of the Seigniorie would be, in such case, fairly and legitimately entitled to a full, equitable, and even liberal consideration of their vested interests and the benefits they have conferred on the Province. At the same time, we are free to say that we are not absolutely wedded to this mode of getting rid of the patent. If the Government have any other and better proposition to make which will attain the same desirable end, while doing strict justice to all concerned, with a view to the public good, we shall be only too happy to support it. But, in some way or other, the patent should be got rid off, as we firmly believe it would be very much to the public interest if it were once for all placed *hors de combat* and the Seigniorie of Rigaud-Vaudreuil thrown open to licensed mining, subject like all other sections of the gold-bearing region to arrangements with the owners of the soil for the mining rights and to

certain wise and liberal reservations in favor of *bona fide* and existing mining enterprises.

The constantly recurring disputes to which the DeLéry Patent has given rise may render not at all misplaced or uninteresting a brief reference to the principal grounds upon which its validity has been and is still questioned. From the time of the first lease of their rights, which was granted by the DeLérys to Dr. James Douglas and other prominent citizens of Quebec, including Colonel Rhodes and the late Mr. Jas. Bell Forsyth, shortly after the issue of the letters-patent, the interests of the owners of the soil or their representatives and those of the owners and lessees of the mining rights under the patent appear to have clashed in a manner which, at all times, has been unpleasant, and, on some occasions, has actually verged on the riotous. Legal proceedings were repeatedly threatened and, in some instances, we believe, actually resorted to in the hope of bringing the contention between the conflicting interests to some satisfactory settlement, which would permit of the business of gold mining being carried on under something like more favorable conditions. Failing this much desired result, the question of the validity of the patent was regularly brought before the law courts for their decision in 1864. A suit was instituted during the course of that year in the Superior Court for the District of Beauce against the patentees and the then lessee of their privileges, Mr. Truman Comen, of Pittsfield, U. S.—the plaintiffs being John O'Farrell, Esquire, advocate, and William Venner, broker, both of this city, and John Simpkins, broker, of New York, who had become the owners by purchase from the original proprietors of certain lots of land on the Gilbert, in the enjoyment and development of which for gold mining purposes they claimed to have been disturbed by the patentees and their lessee.

The principal grounds upon which the plaintiffs proceeded in claiming the cancellation of the patent as illegal were the following: 1st. Because, in the original grant of the Rigaud-Vaudreuil Seigniority from the King of France, no reserve had been made of the mines and minerals in favor of the French Crown—the only condition imposed upon the grantees being that of notifying His Majesty and his successors of the existence of such mines and minerals, if any. 2nd. Because, by judgment of the Seigniorial Court, all reserves of mines made by the Seigneurs in grants to their *censitaires*, had been declared illegal, without a similar reserve in the original grant, and because, by the same judgment, it had been also decided that the riparian proprietors along unnavigable rivers were the proprietors of one half of the said unnavigable rivers where they skirted their properties. 3rd. Because, by judgment of J. E. Turcotte, one of the Commissioners under the Seigniorial Act, on the 18th November, 1857, the mining rights in favor of the defendants had not been recognized. 4th. Because the *discovery* of the existence of gold in the said Seigniority had not been made by the DeLérys, but that said discovery had been made more than forty years before the issue of the letters-patent. 5th. Because at least thirteen years before the issue of the letters-patent, one Gilbert had found a piece of gold in the said Seigniority, and this to the knowledge of the DeLérys, and because, notwithstanding this knowledge, they neglected to notify the Government of the fact, in contravention of the clause stipulated in their grant, up to the date of their application for the letters-patent in 1846. 6th. Because the lands acquired by the plaintiffs had been conceded to the vendors of the same or their *auteurs* more than thirty years before the said acquisition and long before the conquest of Canada. 7th. Because the plaintiffs were proprietors and in possession of the lots of land (in question)

and half of the river Chaudière bounding them—the said river being neither navigable nor floatable, *ni navigable, ni flottable*. 8th. Because one of the plaintiffs, John O'Farrell, Esquire, had been the first to notify Her Majesty of the existence of gold upon the said lots. 9th. Because the plaintiffs had the means to work the said mines and were ready to do so. 10th. Because the said letters-patent had been obtained by fraud, surprise, false representations and false reports as to the person who discovered the existence of the said gold mines in the said Seigniory, and also as to other important facts. 11th. Because the description of the rights accorded by the said letters-patent was vague and uncertain. 12th. Because the formalities required by law to validate letters-patent had not been observed. 13th. Because Her Majesty did not possess the rights which she had granted by the letters-patent and because by the laws of Lower Canada, then and still in force, the rights of Her Majesty to mines only extend to one-tenth of the metals extracted payable to her in certain cases. 14th. Because by the laws of Lower Canada the mines belong to the owners of the soil, and because the patentees, at the time of the issuing of the said letters-patent, were not and never had been proprietors of the soil of the lots belonging to the plaintiffs, and because the said letters-patent were issued without previous notice to the plaintiffs' *auteurs*. 15th. Because Her Majesty could not confer upon a third party the right of mining upon the property of any one but upon the refusal of the proprietor of the soil to exercise such right, after previous notice given him by a judgment of the law courts. 16th. Because the said letters-patent were illegally and inconsiderately issued. 17th. Because they were void by reason of the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure in Lower Canada, of the two judgments already mentioned, and of the completion of the cadastration of the Rigaud-Vaudreuil Seigniory.

By the conclusions of their declaration, the plaintiffs prayed to be adjudged to be the sole owners of the mines of precious metals and all other minerals on their lands and one half of the bed of the River Chaudière fronting the same, and to have the patent set aside, revoked and cancelled as having been illegally and improvidently issued; claiming, moreover, judgment against the defendants for damages to the amount of \$250,000 and costs for having unlawfully entered upon their lands and mined for gold therein, thereby preventing the plaintiffs from selling the said lands at a profit.

To this action, the defendants, DeLéry and Coman, pleaded separately, taking, however, substantially the same grounds of exception. They met it in the first place with objections to the form, of which the principal one was that the sole means of attacking the validity of letters-patent was by way of the writ of *scire facias*, in conformity with the provisions of the existing law; that, the issue of such writ could only take place with the consent of the Government; that no such consent had been given and no such writ had been issued; and that, in any case, the Crown as an interested party in the patent, should have been made a party to the case in order to enable it to defend its rights. In the second place, they claimed the dismissal of the action because the Seigniorial Act and the judgments under it only affected Mr. DeLéry's rights as a Seigneur and not his rights to the minerals, under the patent, which were independent of his quality of Seigneur; because the plaintiffs had not alleged that they had made [the discovery of the gold before him or that they had notified the Crown of such discovery before the issue of the letters-patent; because neither by the original grant of the Seigniority nor by the existing laws of Lower Canada had there been any delay fixed for the giving of such notice; because he was not obliged by law to establish the refusal or neglect of



others to work the mines, by a judgment or formal judicial notice; because, by their own titles, the plaintiffs did not allege a right to the minerals; because, by the existing laws, as well as by those in force at the time of the issue of the said letters-patent, the unconceded mines did not belong to the owners of the soil; because the Crown and not the plaintiffs or others could invoke the non-accomplishment of the conditions of the patent; and finally, among other things, because, according to French law, the mines in France always belonged to the Sovereign and still belonged to him in 1763, the opening of such mines could not be made without his authority, the permission or privilege of working them was always given to the person offering the best guarantees of success for the undertaking; and the owner of the soil had no other indemnity to claim from those who opened such mines on his property than one for the damages resulting from his deprivation of the surface.

It will be seen that the issue joined between the parties was perfectly clear and unmistakeable. On the one hand, an assertion; on the other, a point blank denial of its soundness both in law and fact. We think it well that a note should be made of this circumstance, as it is very certain, if the question gets into the law courts again, that very much the same relative positions will be taken up by the litigants and then, in all probability, we may look for its solution about the period of the Greek Kalends. In the meantime, while the gentlemen of the long robe are settling the business to their own satisfaction, the Province may and will, in all probability, have to deplore the loss of another favorable opportunity of helping to develop one of its most promising sources of national wealth.\*

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\* Since this was written, we notice that the Attorney-General of the Province has granted his *fiat* for the issue of a writ of *scire facias* to bring the question of the validity of the Patent before the Courts. It remains to be seen whether this action will preclude the Government from taking any other steps in the connection.

It is neither our purpose nor our inclination to follow the interesting litigation between the contending interests through its many perplexing phases, including appeals and journeyings innumerable to and fro between Beauce and Quebec. Suffice it to say that, after many variations and vicissitudes, not the least of which, we think, was the loss or mutilation of the voluminous record of the case in the fire at the Quebec Court House, it was finally settled out of Court between the parties and further proceedings stayed by them in a way, which, we must presume, was to their mutual satisfaction, though certainly little to that of the public, as it took the great question at issue, namely, the validity of the patent, out of the hands of the law courts and has left it, to the public injury, undecided from that day to this.

In view of the prevailing impression that it is now the duty of the Government to take some action in the matter, which will either effectually dispose of the patent or more thoroughly protect those who claim to have certain rights under it, special note should be made of the very apposite words used by the late Dr. Anderson in speaking of his visit to the mines in 1865. "The men," said he, "appeared well content with their fortune, and I have no doubt that they had good reason to be so, as a very large quantity of gold found its way to Quebec, *and I am convinced if Government had at this time made an arrangement with Mr. DeLéry and opened up the field to healthy competition on terms similar to those adopted by the Nova Scotia Government, that such action would have been attended with the like satisfactory results.* Their not having done so led to numerous vexatious law-suits, in which all parties gained a loss and all mining operations were for a time put a stop to." But the most unmistakeable condemnation of the patent and of its injurious effects upon gold-mining as an industry in this Province, is supplied by the report of the Select Committee of the Legislature in 1865, which exhaustively considered the subject in all its bearings. Says this report:—

“Difficulties have arisen in enforcing the conditions of the Patent, and whatever effect it may have had heretofore, its existence at the present time is *highly detrimental to the progress of mining in that section*. These difficulties must increase as the mining-works increase, and cannot fail to prove injurious to the public interest. Various opinions are entertained as to the validity of the Patent, and as to whether its terms can be enforced. \* \* \* \* This being a legal question, your Committee can do no more than present the facts and their injurious effect upon the public interests, accompanied with a recommendation that *steps be at once taken to effect an equitable settlement with the parties, and remove the difficulty forever.*”

To the great political metamorphosis of Confederation through which the country passed about this time, as well as to the already declining interest in the gold mines, thanks, in part, to a continuance of the drawbacks already noted, we must probably set down the fact that this important recommendation was utterly overlooked. But the excuse of more pressing interests no longer exists; while, on the other hand, it seems needless to add that the occasion for the renewal of the vexations and impediments to the more thorough development of our gold fields, which appears to be imminent, cannot at all be contemplated with satisfaction. We therefore call public attention once more to the question of the DeLéry Patent in connection with the general question of the development of our mineral wealth.



#### A R T I C L E   I V .

We think it has been satisfactorily shown, in the course of our previous articles on the subject, that the gold-fields of the Chaudière have not yet been tested so fully or fairly that there is room to alter the favorable opinion formed of

them at the outset. The attempts made until more lately to develop them have been mainly characterized by inexperience, waste and mismanagement. In point of fact, they have only been very indifferently "scratched over" as yet, and therefore, all considered, gold mining with us must be regarded as still in its infancy. But, in any case, comparisons to their disadvantage drawn from the rapidly developed and wonderfully large products of the Californian or Australian mines, which, no doubt, had the effect in their day of absorbing public attention to the neglect of the abundant wealth of the same kind lying nearer home, are obviously unfair on account of the great difference necessarily existing between the circumstances of new regions untrammelled by the forms or encumbrances of civilization and those of an old established farming country, where permission to dig for the precious metal had first to be purchased or obtained from the owners of the soil or the claimants of the mining rights.

In the case of the territory covered by the DeLéry patent, we have seen that the situation has been further complicated by the chronic dispute between the proprietors of the land and the patentees or their representatives, as well as by the fact that the miner—if he be not already an owner of the soil himself—is obliged to come to terms with both these clashing interests, except where they happen to go hand in hand, before he can expect to undertake the development of his claim in peace and security, under license from the Government. Of course, the same difficulties do not present themselves.—or at least not to the same disturbing extent—outside the limits of this territory; but this important fact does not appear to have been as widely known as it ought to have been, for the advantage of our gold fields generally—the one being confounded with the other in many minds and the whole made to do duty for the part as suffering from an incurable incubus. It is,

therefore, not at all to be wondered at that both individual enterprise and capital—the latter especially—should have been deterred of late years from embarking to any very wide-spread extent in the working of the rich mineral resources of the Chaudière; for, as was very pertinently remarked by the Select Committee of the Legislature in 1865, speaking of the investment of capital in our gold fields, “money will never be obtained upon real property without a complete absolute title, in every respect perfect.”

Another class of evils, from which the gold mining interest has suffered in no small degree and from which it is urgently necessary to deliver it as far as possible, is made up of those arising from the traffic in mining lands for speculative purposes. So impressed was the Committee of 1865 with the damage which this traffic had done to the development of our gold fields that it included, in its report, a special recommendation with regard to the necessity of adopting some effective means of preventing any party or parties from obtaining large tracts of land which they could hold *in a waste and unimproved condition, and thus do injury to the public interest*. This recommendation, however, appears to have either come too late to prevent the evils aimed at or to have been so indifferently acted upon that but little real good was derived from it; for, in 1866, we find that Mr. A. Michel, of the Geological Survey, reported “that the researches, rewarded in many localities by unlooked for success, had placed the Chaudière region among those in which the systematic working of the alluvial deposits and the gold-bearing quartz veins (when separated from false hopes and extravagances) might become a regular industry, having its chances of success and failure. The acquisition by American companies of a great part of the auriferous lands along the borders of the rivers Chaudière, Famine, Du Loup and other tributaries, as well as the sale made by the Messrs. DeLéry to another company of the

mining rights in the seigniory of Rigaud-Vandrenuil, might have been expected to have given an impulse during the (then) past year to the working for gold in that district, or, if not, at least to proper operations directed by skilful miners; but such had not been the case, none of the companies since their organization having undertaken any important workings, nor even any serious explorations of their properties, while at the same time the country people had abandoned their search for alluvial gold and the influx of strangers (who came there for the same purpose in great numbers in 1864) entirely ceased in 1865." "If I am to believe reports," adds Mr. Michel, "this discouragement may be in part attributed to the *inactivity of these companies.*" At the same time, it must be confessed that it is not easy to see how these evils could have been prevented under the circumstances of the land tenure in much of the gold-bearing region which was most affected at that time by miners. A brief explanation on this head may not be undesirable. In 1864, when the gold fields were first erected into the two mining divisions of the Chaudière and St. Francis, the lands contained in them were either seigniorial, still belonged to the Government, or had long previously been alienated from the Crown domain by sale or as free grants to actual settlers, who had, of course, a perfect right to dispose of their properties as they pleased. In point of fact, therefore, the Government could exercise no direct or salutary control over the land traffic except in so far as the unconceded portion of the Crown domain was likely to be thereby affected. By a very unwise distinction, however, they had made as to price between mining and agricultural lands, they appear to have indirectly connived—at least so far as the gold region was concerned—at the facilitation of the very evils which they were so desirous of preventing. By Order-in-Council, it was decided thenceforward to omit from all Crown Lands' patents the clause

previously included therein, reserving to the Crown all mines of the precious metals and to sell such lands for mining purposes at the rate of \$1 per acre cash, while for *bona fide* agricultural and settlement objects, they could still be acquired at the ordinary rate, subject, however, to increase to \$2 and later on to \$1 per acre in the event of their subsequently coming to be worked as auriferous. It does not require much reflection to perceive how this policy played into the hands of wealthy speculators. Previously, they could only purchase a lot here and there from private owners willing to dispose of the soil or their mining rights upon it, or they could only acquire the land directly from the Department to a limited extent by complying with the settlement conditions. Under this policy, however, they could at once proceed and they accordingly did proceed, with the abundant means at their command, to lock up and keep in a waste and unimproved condition, in expectation of high prices, large and valuable portions of the public domain, which they will neither work themselves, nor allow others to work except upon conditions which no industry like gold-mining could safely undertake or reasonably be expected to satisfy with a due regard for its own profits and permanency. But the injurious effects of this policy do not seem to have stopped here, for, by enhancing the price of the public lands to the practical miner, they placed it in many instances beyond his power to undertake their development. Indeed, on this head, the Committee of 1865 appears to have laid very particular stress, properly holding that, for : 1y years then yet to come, the Government land policy would greatly effect (as it will still) the progress of the Chaudière and St. Francis divisions and that, according as that policy was liberal or illiberal, well considered or ill-considered, so would its influence be beneficial or otherwise. In its report, the Committee pointed out that nothing could be more ill-judged or prejudicial to the best interests of the country than the practice

of making a distinction between mining and agricultural lands, remarking that while the purchaser of the latter, by a careful examination of the surface, could almost infallibly satisfy himself that he was getting the full value of his money and that every day's labor expended on the soil would yield a certain return, on the other hand, the miner had to run the risk of having his purchase turn out unprofitable, after having made a large outlay to simply ascertain this unsatisfactory result. And the Committee very pertinently added :—

“The business of mining is proverbially precarious. In a great many instances the owner of a mining lot, after he has paid for his land and expended many times its cost upon it, finds that he has made a bad investment, and is the owner of a worthless piece of property; should it happen that he makes a fortunate selection and becomes the owner of a valuable mine, he is enabled to find profitable work on his single lot for more productive labor than could be afforded upon fifty agricultural lots. At the same time the employment for labor so afforded induces immigration, creates an increased demand for imports, as well as for home productions, and in every way much greater service is done to the country than could be effected by means of an agricultural lot. It might be considered from this point of view, that, if any distinction is made, it should be in favor of the miner.”

It would therefore seem eminently desirable that some important changes should be made in the Government land regulations, at least in so far as they affect the gold mining divisions, both for the purpose of promoting the general development of the mining interest and of preventing speculation at its expense. But the great difficulty always has been and still is—how best to attain these two important objects, without the results in the one case impairing the effects in the other. Indeed, short of an arbitrary provision, limiting the extent of mining lands to be held in one set of hands and requiring it to be worked within a



certain delay under pain of forfeiture or transfer to *bona fide* enterprise, it is not quite clear how the root of the speculation evil is to be got at, with any prospects of success. On the other hand, it is a question whether such restrictions would not be more prejudicial than otherwise to the interests of a region, whose proper development is believed in a great measure to depend upon undertakings operating on such a large scale and with such reserves of land to draw upon for future operations that they might reasonably expect to make their investments both profitable and permanent. If the Province had only *bona fide* miners or intending miners to deal with, it would be all plain-sailing enough, and no policy too liberal could be framed in their interests. But unfortunately such has not been always the case in the past; nor is it likely to be so in the present.

Altogether, therefore, this feature of the general question may be regarded as the most intricate and difficult which the Government are called upon to solve in the interest of mineral development in the Chaudière country, and the public will consequently look with some anxiety for the mode in which they propose to do so. At the same time, it is some satisfaction to know that the whole problem is in excellent hands when committed to those of the gentleman who actually presides over the administration and destinies of the Crown Lands' Department. However politicians may differ, they must agree in recognizing, in the legal acumen, general ability and extremely pains-taking character of Hon. Mr. Flynn, that combination of desirable qualities, rarely met with in a Commissioner, which offer the best guarantees of a reasonable share of success in the matter. It would be, perhaps, too much to expect absolute perfection in a connection, which has already taxed to but poor account the ingenuity of some very able and conscientious men. Nevertheless, we are free to say that, if the Government err at all at this juncture, it should rather

do so on the side of liberality to the mining interest than on any other, in view of the vast future benefits which the healthy development of that important interest under favorable conditions may be confidently expected to confer upon the Province as a whole. Indeed, if it were at all possible, in view of those benefits, to give to the development of our mineral wealth that almost absolute liberty, which it enjoys among our neighbors of the United States, and that wise encouragement and protection which seem essential to it as a young industry, we think the Government would only act in the public interests, in extending to it the unquestionable advantages of such measures.

It may be interesting to mention that an elaborate scheme for this purpose has already been propounded in the columns of our Montreal contemporary, *La Minerve*, of which the following are the leading features :—

“ 1. Repeal of all existing mining laws ; 2. Creation of a Ministry or Department of Mines ; 3. Classification (as in the United States) of all the soil of the Province into two categories—mining lands and agricultural lands ; 4. Abolition of all taxes, Federal, Local or Municipal, for a period of 25 years, upon all mines of gold, silver, cinnabar or quicksilver, precious stones, platinum and other precious metals ; as well as upon all mills, &c., exclusively treating these metals, or these metals allied with copper, &c. ; 5. Abolition of the percentage or *per capita* tax on all hands employed in the mines for the same period or forever ; 6. Full and entire freedom to seek, find and work all mines ; 7. The right to every British subject to seek, find and work all mines of gold, silver, platinum, cinnabar or precious stones wherever he may discover them ; 8. Obligation to file with the Commissioner of Mines an affidavit showing that the work required by law has been performed ; 9. Payment of \$10 to the Commissioner, for the Government, for a certificate establishing the performance of such work until proof of the contrary ; 10. Performance of at least sixty days' work yearly on each claim ; 11. Every mine unworked during a period of 12 months to be considered as an undiscovered mine and every one to have the right to

register it anew and develop it as his property by complying with the provisions of the law; 12. These regulations to apply also to all veins, lodes, &c., containing the precious metals; 13. The extent of each claim to be 500 feet square or 250,000 feet superficial, bounded on all sides by perpendicular lines, and the same for veins, &c.; 14. As soon as the sum of \$500 in work shall have been expended on a claim, the miner to have a right to and be required to procure a patent, for which purpose he should have his claim surveyed under the direction of the Commissioner of Mines and pay at the rate of \$8 per acre for his claim besides the costs of survey; 15. Each claim to be numbered and named, certain alternate numbers being reserved by the Government for the benefit of a School of Mines to provide for the much needed diffusion of information on mining and metallurgy throughout the Province or for other purposes. The same regulations to apply to mineral veins as to the deposits or alluvions; 16. Tunnel claims to cover half a mile square; all tunnels to be driven in a straight line—the proprietor having the right to all veins on one side of the tunnel and the Government to those on the other for the benefit of the School of Mines; 17. The Government or its representatives to have the right, without cost, to use the tunnel for the working of its half of the veins intersected; 18. The patent for a moiety of the half-mile square, to be granted, upon the boring of the first thousand feet, at the rate of \$5 per acre; 19. Collection of \$5 for the location certificate, and of \$10 annually for re-registration of the work performed during that period on each claim, such sums being considered amply sufficient to cover the expenses of the Department of Mines, and because the revenue derivable therefrom, and levied in this way would be in no sense onerous to the miner; while, on the other hand, the *reserved* claims would so increase in value before five years that they would be worth more than the whole at present and the Government be thus enabled to sell them at a large profit both to the Province and the cause of mineral development generally.”

There can be no doubt that this scheme possesses many attractions and advantages and, if it could be realized in its entirety, might be productive of most beneficial results not only for the gold-mining interest, but for all the other

allied mineral interests throughout the Province, whether considered in themselves or in their important bearings upon the agriculture, trade and general industry of the country. But, as we have no other evidence that it foreshadows the intentions of the Government, than the fact that it has been first given publicity in the special organ of the Provincial Premier, and then only over a private signature, we must confine ourselves for the present to the above expression of opinion as to its merits.

In the meantime, we must say that it is the duty of the hour to rid, as far as possible and as far as the finances of the Province will permit, the gold mining industry of the greater vexations and incumbrances to which it has hitherto been exposed, commencing at the bottom with the land question and the question of the mining rights. These vital points once settled, it will probably be easy enough to arrange the subsequent details. Nevertheless, while on the subject of those vexations, we think it proper to call the very special attention of the Commissioner of Crown Lands to the necessity, in view of future possibilities, of a solution of the long-disputed question of the rights of the Crown and the riparian proprietors respectively to the river beds and flats in the gold region, and of an authoritative definition of the difference between the streams that are to be considered *navigable et flottable* and those that are not. In the whole history of gold-mining on the Chaudière, no questions more than these, perhaps, have given rise to more unpleasantness between the owners of the soil and the miners. Indeed, the bungling and ill-advised action of the authorities on these heads on several occasions appear to have excited such a ferment and brought matters generally to such an ugly pass between the two interests that they almost culminated in actual bloodshed; and we need hardly say that it is far from desirable to revive the occasion for such dangerous differences and eventualities. Incidentally,

in the interests of the public revenue and as against the keeping by speculators of many valuable mineral lots in a waste and unimproved condition, we may also mention that it might be well to look into the claims of the Crown upon all portions of the public domain alienated before 1864 and patented with reserves of the mines of the precious metals in its favor ; while, as a measure of encouragement to the search for and discovery of new deposits or veins containing the precious metals, we would suggest the consideration of more liberal provisions to "prospectors" and the adoption of some arrangement by which a certain preference should be secured to discoverers, due regard always had for private rights and vested interests of a *bona fide* character.

As the weight of evidence seems to be in favor of the prosecution of mining by strong companies rather than by individual effort as the best calculated to be successful in the Chaudière country, it cannot be said that any very great changes in the existing mining regulations are urgently demanded. They are in all probability fairly liberal enough as things go ; except perhaps in the matter of the extent of claims, and the absence of any provision for a regular Assayer at the mines, as in California and Australia, and as often recommended here, to test the value of the auriferous quartz, in view of the fact that the quartz veins throughout the rock formation have been ascertained to be more or less rich in the precious metal and that while the alluvial diggings may be exhausted after some years, the quartz veins and other lodes may be worked for a long time and become more valuable as they are more developed. Nevertheless, when it is considered that it is important to encourage the development of our gold fields in every way possible and that the great aim of the Government should be to render it as free and as little onerous as possible to individual as well as associated enterprise, it cannot be said either that

the existing regulations are unsusceptible of improvement. On the contrary, for instance, though we have heard mine-owners profess their willingness to pay even a larger sum or tax to the Government if they could only get once for all rid of the claims under the DeLéry Patent, it is very generally believed that the present monthly license of \$1 imposed by the regulations on every miner or employee of a mine might be reduced with the greatest advantage, in the first place, to the gold mining industry, as it is calculated that this fee amounts in the year to a duty or tax upon it of nearly, if not fully, 10 per cent, which is more than it can well bear—and thrive; and, in the second place to the Government, who would derive a larger revenue from the increased development of the gold fields, while generally promoting thereby the interests of the Province. There is reason to think that, under the circumstances, an annual instead of a monthly license fee of \$5 would be sufficient for all revenue purposes, though it appears that some mine-owners consider any block sum for the year objectionable, as very naturally they can never say during how much or how little of the twelve months they may be able to carry on active operations, or how long or short any particular workman may be in their employ. This objection, however, might possibly be got over by making the license transferable, with proper precautions. But at any rate, a block sum of \$5 would, by all accounts, be more easily collected, especially by rendering it payable under a heavy penalty, as it should be, by the mine owners instead of by their workmen. As matters now stand, it occasionally happens that the workman, trusting to his employer to take out his monthly license, has his suit for wages dismissed by the Gold Mining Inspector (who, under the 31 Victoria, ch. 21, section 2, is invested with very great judicial powers of a civil and criminal character as regards mining matters) because, his license not having been taken out, he is no

longer a miner in the eyes of the law, and therefore does not come within the Inspector's jurisdiction. This is certainly a hardship, which should be remedied as soon as possible.

Another very necessary reform would appear to be the abolition of the system of monthly returns of the quantities of gold extracted required from mine-owners, which are worse than useless because they are seldom reliable either from a statistical point of view or as a basis for the calculation of percentages. But, since the commutation of the Crown royalties for license fees, it is even a question whether the Government have a right to exact them. At any rate, it is very clear that the Crown has no longer any direct interest in them. They are, therefore, as needlessly and offensively inquisitorial as if the Government were to require licensed hotel-keepers or the members of any other craft or calling to send in monthly statements of their receipts and profits. Moreover, it has been shewn that the system is in a large degree impracticable, and, as what is impracticable is usually inexpedient, it would be just as well if this system were abolished forthwith, leaving the private parties interested to find means of arranging their percentages between themselves, without vicarious and unpopular intervention on the part of the Government. For statistical purposes, we believe a readier and more reliable way can be found of ascertaining the annual amount of the precious metals produced by the mines, by making it to the interest of the miners to declare it instead of rendering them suspicious and secretive on the subject, as unquestionably they have all along been under the present system, to the manifest injury of the reputation of our gold fields.

It would seem that there is also urgent necessity to make the actual law stricter with regard to the sale, near the mines, of intoxicating liquors, which have already been the

source of so much disturbance and difficulty among the miners. Under the present regulations, such sale is prohibited within a radius of twelve miles around the mines, without obtaining upon certain formalities a monthly license from the Inspector for the purpose. But it appears that, notwithstanding its comprehensive character, this prohibition is easily eluded since the amendment to the License Law, which permits the granting generally of licenses for liquor stores by the District Revenue Inspectors; so that it will be readily understood that once a store of this kind is legally established in a mining district, and beyond the salutary control of the Mining Inspector, it is easy for the miners to slake their thirst at the fountain head or, if they comply with the law against the purchase of less than three gallons at a time, the number intoxicated is only greater or the "spree" longer and, of course, the disturbance also. The mining regulations should therefore be strictly carried out and no license granted for the sale of strong drink unless by the Inspector, who, according to the Act, can maintain or revoke it as to him seems best, according to the use or abuse made of the privilege. In the same connection, too, we may remark that it might be well if the Inspector had also the powers required, in case of necessity, to clear the mining districts of all professional card-sharpers, *monté* men and other *chevaliers d'industrie*, who frequently flock to gold diggings as the best harvest fields for their nefarious trades and who have so often proved the curse of the unwary miner in California and Australia.

In fine, as the harmonious and efficient working of any system of machinery that may be devised for the development and regulation of the gold-mining interest in this Province must, in a large measure, depend upon the zeal and efficiency of the representative of the Government on the ground, it is of the utmost importance to all concerned that the very necessary, yet extremely arduous, as well as



delicate office of Gold-Mining Inspector or Commissioner should be well filled and sufficiently well paid to secure and retain the best material offering. In its present incumbent the Province has, by all accounts, all that can be desired. Young, active, and thoroughly acquainted from his boyhood with the whole Chaudière country, enjoying in a high degree both through family associations and upon his own personal merits, the confidence and respect of its inhabitants, as well as of the mining interest since his appointment to the position, he appears to be exactly the right man in the right place. A barrister by profession and of good standing at the Bar, Mr. Duchesnay also brings to the discharge of the important magisterial functions of his dual office of Crown representative at the mines and arbiter between the miners in their difficulties, the inestimable advantages of a well-trained and well-stored legal mind, coupled with obliging manners and that habit of command, which is so essential to authority. Yet, we regret to understand, that this well qualified gentleman, since the abolition of the office of District Magistrate, receives for all remuneration for his services but the paltry sum of \$400 per annum, out of which he has to pay all his office and Court contingencies, as well as travelling expenses, which would not appear to be trifling. Some idea can be formed of the public value and importance of these services, as well as of their arduous and absorbing character, when we state that Mr. Duchesnay attends regularly at St. Francis from two to five times a month, and as often more as he may be required, to hear and adjudicate upon mining difficulties and disputes between the miners, while he has frequently to go even upon the mining grounds himself to settle troubles about claim boundaries and water-courses, thus in many instances bringing them to an amicable termination, and thereby obviating to the miners and to their great satisfaction the costs and annoyances of litigation. Notwithstanding this, however, we believe that

within about a year, not less than 140 cases were taken before his Inspector's Court, many of them involving difficult questions of divisions of profits between partners, as well as of property and of damages. Moreover, it is well that it should be understood that the Inspector has criminal as well as civil jurisdiction, and that the cases which, from time to time, come before him may be, and often are, equal in importance, as far as the amounts, the consequences, or the legal points involved are concerned, to many which are considered the special property of the higher Courts of the Province. It will thus be seen that it is absolutely necessary that the Inspector should be at the same time a lawyer of some standing and practice; and that it is consequently but short-sighted policy to place him on a level as to salary with the pettiest officer in the public service. Zeal and efficiency, and not half-heartedness and inability, are what are required for the position, and they should be paid for at their proper value. It should be remembered, too, that Mr. Duchesnay's predecessors, Messrs. DeBellefeuille and Pope, were respectively paid at the rate of \$2,000 a year, with allowances, and that, in Mr. Pope's time, the Inspector had in addition an excellent sergeant and twelve mounted police constables to execute his orders and assist him generally in the discharge of his duties. On the other hand, the present Inspector is altogether unaided, no allowance been made him even for a single constable, while his duties have increased and promise to increase further still, should the gold-mining industry in the Chaudière division, next season, make the important new departure expected from it, under the healthy and invigorating influence of a more enlightened and beneficial policy. The duty of the Government on this head, therefore, is so plain that it is unnecessary to enlarge further upon it in these columns; though it may not be amiss to add, in connection with the general question of the administration of justice and the maintenance of order at the mines, that the Gov-

ernment may find it to be also their duty to take authority from the Legislature for the reorganization of the mounted police, in case of necessity for their services and in view of the possibilities already referred to. It is believed that one policeman to every hundred miners would be ample for all purposes, and that, in the event of a large influx of miners to the district, the Government would more than recoup themselves for their outlay in establishing and maintaining the force, as it is calculated that, without the latter's assistance, fully one-half the mining population at the various workings, widely separated as they often are, would escape the payment of the license fees, thus entailing a considerable annual loss upon the Province, which, if prevented, would not only suffice to pay the police, but leave a goodly margin of profit for the public treasury. Moreover, the moral effect of authority, supported by organized force, if necessary, should not be overlooked, as a deterrent to disorder and crime, which is perhaps more important than the mere money considerations involved; while, on the other hand, the peaceable miner, who regularly pays his license, has an undoubted right to look to Government for the fullest protection.

But whatever may be done towards amending, improving or consolidating the existing mining laws and regulations,—and it cannot be denied that they could be passed through all these processes with much advantage—it is important that, if at all possible, this should be done once for all, as frequent changes in the law have led to great confusion in the past and militated in no small degree against mineral development in the Chaudière region.

## ARTICLE V.

In bringing to a close, in the present article, our review of the situation and prospects of the gold mining industry in this Province, we cannot omit an allusion to the trite remarks made not long since to the writer by an American visitor to this city. Said this gentleman, in speaking of the mineral riches of the Chaudière Valley and the astonishing indifference heretofore manifested by Canadians to their development. "Why, sir, it is perfectly inconceivable how blind your people are to their own interests. You are half asleep all the time, I believe. If we had such a vast store of treasure as you have there, we would have turned the whole country *inside out* to get at it long before this. Look at what we have done in California and Nevada, and just wait a little and you will see what we are going to do under your own noses in Maine."

There is certainly more truth than poetry in these somewhat uncomplimentary strictures upon our business character as a people, and our American friend only indulged in a bit of very legitimate pride in his fellow countrymen when he drew a contrast in their favor at our expense. And sure enough--as if to confirm and give greater point and force to his remarks--we have since had and published the following important item of news in the ordinary course of our American despatches:—

NEW YORK, February 4—The *Times'* Bangor special reports Maine is in a fever of excitement over the developments of rich copper and silver mining properties. Large profits have been realized already; it is estimated two to three millions have been invested in lands in the mineral districts since mid-summer by citizens. Lands worth \$10 an acre less than two years ago have been sold for one and two thousand an acre. A mining exchange has been established at Bangor."

This is the way our go-ahead neighbors do business, and this is the way in which, individually and as a nation, they have reaped such large profits from the natural resources of their great country, developing them with a boldness, which does not stop to take timorous account of obstacles, and with a rapidity, which is not only wonderful, but has given to the world equally wonderful results and made the United States, what they are to-day, the home of one of the most numerous and prosperous peoples on the face of the habitable globe. The word "impossible" has been virtually written out of their dictionary; no pent-up Utica restricts their powers, and considerations of cost or difficulty are among the least of their calculations in striking out into those paths of enterprise, which conduce to the solid wealth and well-being of a nation.

There is, perhaps, no department in which they have excelled so much to their individual and national advantage as in that of mining and the development generally of their mineral resources, and the results have been in keeping with the vigor of their adventurous spirit, their inventive genius, their versatility, and their determination. In fact, there has been nothing more remarkable in the history of human progress in modern times than the wondrous rapidity with which they have opened up their immense Western territory since the discovery of gold on the Pacific coast in '48. Since that memorable and exciting period, the extraordinary growth of this immense territory has been characterized by a continuous succession of surprises. Thriving cities and towns have sprung up as if by magic where, but a few years since, the wild Indian roamed in the undisturbed freedom of his war paint and savagery; and immense fortunes have been made, outrivalling in their almost fabulous magnitude the long-boarded wealth of the richest families of the Old World. Across the burning plains of Utah, through the dark canons and dangerous

passes of the eternal Rockies, to the teeming soil of California beyond, marking his path at frequent intervals with lasting evidences of his adventurous and civilizing mission, or leaving his bones to bleach by the wayside as records of his melancholy fate, the miner was the pioneer of the settler and the trader until—so to say—with their united aids the desert has been made to bloom like the rose and its long concealed riches to contribute to man's multifarious uses and benefit. And now that the feverish excitement of those early days has in a measure sobered down, we can perceive the indelible effects which these enterprising spirits have had upon the national prosperity of the United States. From a hap-hazard scrambling of uninitiated adventurers scraping here and there among the rocks, mining for the precious metals among our neighbors has grown into a well-organized and wonderful system, employing millions of capital and tens of thousands of stout hearts and strong hands, and bringing into action an amount of inventive genius and energy which, for over thirty years, has made California the great gold-fountain of the Pacific coast, and, within a later period, has attacked the rich deposits of silver and other economic minerals locked up in the recesses of the great backbone of the continent, to the immense benefit of settlement and agricultural interests and of every branch of trade and industry.

It is a curious coincidence, too—and one well worthy of note by those who are in the habit of decrying our gold fields as exhausted, "played out" and all that sort of thing—that the reputation even of California as a gold-bearing country has in its day been attacked, and has suffered more or less in very much the same way as that of the Chaudière. A very interesting paper, published in *Harper's Magazine* for 1860, relates the experiences of a miner of '49 on the occasion of a return visit to the mining regions of the Pacific slope during that year. To a few extracts from

this paper, which have a certain application to the case of our own gold fields and are also extremely suggestive of what is needed for their systematic, thorough and profitable development, we ask the reader's particular attention :—

“Of the thousands who note the semi-monthly arrivals of treasure, and who, from habit, have at last come to consider California as a sort of gold-producing Croton, whence the supply is expected as a matter of course, comparatively few are acquainted with the methods by which these riches are drawn from the bowels of the earth. I have even found men who supposed that the primitive rocker or cradle of 1849 is still in use in 1860.

“The old localities such as the beds of well-known rivers and the adjacent ‘bars’ being partially exhausted, it has been believed that mining could not now be followed so successfully as formerly, and that only gleanings remained for the future adventurer. But for ten years the great gold fountain of the Pacific has never failed; and instead of a decreased supply, each year's returns have shown that, *with the improvements in machinery and contrivances for saving the gold*, the yield is steadily augmenting, and this without a material increase in the number of workmen engaged.

“As the rivers and creeks were gradually worked over, there remained to the miner only those localities, which, though gold-bearing, had not become such depositories of the precious metal as the vicinity of rivers, which had gradually collected the gold in their beds, as they passed through the country. It was at first believed that the only available places for gold-washing were the river beds, bars, flats and canons, which were so generally attacked in 1849 and 1850. As these were exhausted, the hue and cry was raised abroad, that the mines were ‘worked out.’ California was then, as since, pronounced ‘played out.’ ‘She had gone up,’ it was said, ‘like a rocket, and come down like a stick.’ The bubble had burst—it had long been anticipated—and sagacious newspaper editors remembered that they had often warned their readers, and predicted all this long before. True, the monthly millions continued to pour into New York as before, and this staggered the doubts of

some; but then it was said, this was only the natural drainings of the great amounts still floating about the country; and California, after giving a new impulse to the world's commerce and prosperity, was about to be laid quietly on the shelf as a used-up concern.

"It was now that intelligent miners began to perceive that their operations must be extended to the districts which had thus far been neglected for the more immediate results to be obtained from the rivers. \* \* \* \* \*

"Passing through Tuolumne County, is a remarkable plateau, about 1,200 feet above the level of the surrounding country, which, from its peculiar form, has received the name of Table Mountain. A few years since, a miner, while prospecting here, was led to believe that it had anciently been the course of a river—a conclusion which has since proved correct by the alluvial deposits and fossils found there by the miners. Here, had accumulated, in distant ages, vast amounts of gold which, however, could only be reached by shafts or tunnels. One of these had been commenced by the discoverer, and was *abandoned*; but others carried it through a distance of 1,500 feet and struck the interior bed or basin of an ancient river, in which have been found deposits of gold of fabulous richness. \* \* \*

"It has been found that the principal deposits of gold are on the great rocky ridge styled 'the bed-rock' and extending throughout the mining region, sometimes outcropping at the surface and at others sinking to a depth of *above a hundred feet*. Where the bed-rock is not at too great a depth, the miners, instead of sinking a shaft to reach the deposits of gold, turn a stream of water upon the bank which is to be removed, and ground-slucing is thus, to a certain extent, used as a substitute for shovelling to remove heavy layers of earth from places where gold is supposed to be deposited.

"The gold region of California embraces a country equal in area to the whole of New England, and, throughout this space, there is no part which does not contain gold; but *in most places the amount is so small* that, at the present rates of living, it will not pay for the working except by some improved process by which a greater amount of earth could be washed than by the cradle. \* \* \* To shovel a mass of several million tons of earth into a sluice for wash-



ing would prove a *profitless job*. It is now that the art of hydraulic mining is called into play, by which the labor of many men is cheaply performed and hills torn down to their base by executing in miniature a process which has been performed since the creation by the mountain streams. The operation is simply throwing an immense stream of water with a hose and pipe precisely as a fire engine plays upon a burning building, and few who have not witnessed it can imagine the effect. Several of these streams directed upon a hill side bring down more earth than a hundred men with shovels and picks could throw."

The paper in question goes on to show that, by the hydraulic method, earths and gravels in the gold region, not yielding more than five cents' worth of the precious metal to the cubic yard, can be easily worked to a considerable profit, while the miner has also in the same manner been enabled to reach some of the most famous placers, which, owing to their great elevation above the adjacent water courses, would have been otherwise unavailable. The writer also details at some length a variety of other methods employed for the collection of gold, such as the diverting of rivers and streams from their natural channels so as to leave the latter dry for mining operations, which are carried on by large companies, who have among them carpenters, surveyors, engineers and stout hands; the quartz-crushing interest, in which millions of capital are invested; and, lastly, the many "tailing" processes, by which the earth already repeatedly washed, the black metallic sand and the refuse of the crushing mills are again severally subjected to examination for the precious metal, and often with a success which shows that even the most improved and careful appliances for saving the gold are still comparative failures. Indeed, experience has proved in California that it pays richly to go over again the ground already worked, and, if such be the case, we can readily believe the statement that it would pay immensely on the Chaudière, seeing it is calculated that fully 25 per cent of

the precious metal has been lost, owing to the slovenly mode of mining there in the past.

The writer in *Harper's* concludes as follows:—

“When it is considered that, in California, there are at least one hundred million superficial acres of gold-bearing territory, *from one to two hundred feet deep*, most of which may be profitably submitted to the hydraulic process, the folly of predicting the failure of the mines will be apparent. Vast as have been the sums already extracted from the soil, the mines are said to have been but ‘scratched over’ as yet, and, with all the quick-succeeding improvements, *gold mining is yet in its infancy*.”

“Reader, when next you notice in your morning paper, among other ‘distinguished arrivals’ from California, the little item of \$1,500,000 IN GOLD DUST, think not of the youngest sister of the Republic as a creature of premature and unhealthy growth, but as a child blooming in her freshest charms and smiling in the confidence of a glorious future. And, above all, when some pompous wise-acre tells you that California is played out, ask him if he ever heard of ‘hydraulic mining.’”

And, now, in our own immediate neighborhood, the State of Maine, adjoining the Chaudière country and forming part, no doubt, of the same grand system of mineral lodes carrying gold and silver, together with lead, copper and other metals, we are probably on the eve of witnessing a repetition of the same remarkable process of development, which has all along been characteristic of the American idea of the best mode of dealing with these great national interests. The recent discoveries made in the Pine Tree State, the strong mineralogical points of resemblance between the greater part of that interesting section of the American Republic and our own gold-bearing region, and the promptitude with which its hardy and enterprising people are already proceeding to avail themselves of the new adjuncts to their lumbering resources thus opportunely brought to light, are full of significance for the rulers

and people of this Province, more particularly in view of the following, which we extract from a recent issue of the *Boston Post* :—

“Prof. Stewart of Virginia City has for three months been making a careful examination of the mines of Maine. At a recent lecture in Portland he said:—*The mines of Maine, like those of every other place, have, upon the surface, deposits of metals which, as we go deeper, disappear and give way to deposits of silver. The mines of Maine are much richer than those of Nevada. The Sullivan and Blue Hill mines promise to be among the richest in the country. Around Frenchman's Bay and along the valley of the Penobscot I believe from investigations I have made that there are mines of surpassing richness. Of course I don't mean to say that every mine is a bonanza ; far from it. In Hancock county there are rich veins of copper, and he predicts that next year the price of copper on Lake Superior will be changed.*”

It is highly important to note the opinion of Professor Stewart as to the probable changes in the character of the mineral deposits in accordance with their development, as indications of both silver and copper are also plentifully scattered throughout our own gold-bearing region right up to the line dividing us from Maine. Influenced, too, as will be the process of mineral development there by the circumstances of a comparatively old and settled country, with a multitude of long established private rights to be respected, it will be interesting, as well as instructive, to closely watch its progress as directly bearing upon our own interests of a similar nature. Of certain things, however, we may rest assured in advance. In Maine, there will be no musty parchments in favor of privileged families, and no relic of an obsolete system to be religiously maintained for their exclusive benefit. In Maine, the State Government will in all probability adopt at once a business-like policy and carry it out in a business-like manner. In fine, the people of Maine will not “give up the ship”—to use a homely phrase—until they have thoroughly established to

their own satisfaction the truth or the fallacy of the theory, to which the recent discoveries in their midst have given rise. And should these discoveries develop in accordance with that theory, we leave our readers to judge of the wonderful effect they must have upon every branch of commerce and industry, as well as upon the general progress of the New England States. Indeed, under such circumstances, it is among the probabilities that we may witness a considerable reflux of the great wave which has been ceaselessly washing Westwards with the tide of immigration for the past thirty or forty years, carrying with it much of the vigor, the bone and the sinew so essential to the success of works of development in every country.

And, under such circumstances, what should be the duty of the Province of Quebec? Is it to sit down with folded arms and look on supinely, while our neighbors, through their intelligence, their enterprise, and their activity, are reaping so rich a harvest from resources which are only of to-day as compared with these that have been lying at our own doors unheeded and undeveloped—to our shame be it said—for nearly half a century, though fully as rich and as available (if not ten times more so) as many that have already been made to contribute to the wealth and prosperity of the United States? Should we go on spending our means and our energies in artificial, but fruitless efforts to attract immigration and induce repatriation, while we are in possession of such a powerful natural magnet as our gold fields and our mineral resources generally, when they are once started on the high road to proper development? Should we not rather seek to place this magnet in such a position that it will have full play for its unquestionable powers of attraction? Beneath the soil and in the rocks of the Chaudière Valley alone, untold mineral wealth lies hidden which only awaits, under happier conditions, a touch from the magic wand of capital

and enterprise to become subject to the economic uses of life and to furnish permanent occupation and solid comfort to thousands of our people, who are now obliged to leave us, because we cannot provide them with profitable employment. The inducements, too, which our gold fields offer to the investment of mining capital are of a superior order, and, under a proper system of working characterized by method, skill and economy, and with the assistance of such labor-saving appliances as the hydraulic process and proper quartz-crushing machinery which capital alone can command, it seems unquestionable that they can be made to return large, sure and constant profits. The latterly ascertained richness of their deepest alluvions, the moral certainty that this favorable characteristic is not peculiar to any particular or limited spot, but extends to innumerable others throughout an immense area, and the certain gold-bearing character of the many quartz veins, which outcrop at various points and are traceable through leagues of country, constitute their primary attractions in the eyes of the miner. But these are by no means the only advantages which our gold fields possess and can offer to both the miner and the capitalist. Their auriferous deposits are "available" in the fullest sense of the mining term and an abundant water supply affords every opportunity to work them with ease and profit by means of any of the extensive processes, which have been found to pay so well in other mining regions. It has been shown that, under a proper system, operations for their development can be carried on equally well in winter as in summer, while their situation in the heart of a well timbered country and in the neighborhood of many old agricultural settlements inhabited by a primitive, law-abiding and orderly people, renders the supply of labor and of timber for mining purposes both constant and cheap. Their proximity to the great centres of population and the easy access to them provided by excellent waggon roads, (which nevertheless

can be extended most beneficially both by the Government and the municipalities in the general interests of settlement and mining in the district) as well as by rail from this city and Levis, with the almost certain prospect at no distant date of the latter's extension through the heart of the gold region, on the one side towards the State of Maine and on the other towards Sherbrooke and Montreal, are also important considerations in connection with the rapid and cheap transport of provisions and material, which the miner and the capitalist should not overlook in weighing the surpassing inducements offered by the Chaudière Valley as an advantageous field for the exercise of their energies and investments. Indeed, there appears to be much gratifying reason to think that both those great interests have of late been taking very special note of these inducements, and it is even said that the immense quantities of land recently bonded or purchased in Beauce by Mr. Chas. Lyonmais, the well-known Mining Engineer, of this city, have been so acquired by him for the purposes of extensive operations looking to the development of their undoubted auriferous wealth, on behalf of a powerful syndicate in New York, having at its head no less noted a personage in the great circles of American finance and enterprise than Cyrus W. Field, of Atlantic Cable celebrity.

All considered therefore, the moment seems extremely opportune and propitious for the adoption of a new and more enlightened policy generally with respect to our gold fields, and, as already remarked, we are glad to hear that the Government of the Province have the important, but sadly neglected subject at present under their serious consideration. As already observed, too, we shall lend our hearty support to any comprehensive, well-advised and liberal, yet cautious scheme they may propose, with a single eye to the public good, which promises to have for practical effect the sweeping away as far as possible of every obstacle,

real or fancied, to the development of the gold region, with a due regard and proper compensation to private rights and vested interests, the throwing open of the district under adequate protection to licensed enterprise and the legitimate investment of capital, and the encouragement generally of the gold-mining and other allied mineral industries by means of such wise regulations, facilities and privileges as may enable the Province to take immediate advantage of the present revival of interest in this important feature of our natural resources, firmly believing that the results to be thereby obtained will more than repay the Province in a short time and in a multiplicity of ways for any outlay it may now make to hasten them. In these results the communities of Beauce and of Quebec and Levis are specially interested, but as a whole the industries, the trade and the population of the Province, as well as the public revenue, must be largely benefitted by any measure that will encourage home and foreign capital to undertake, on a larger, more profitable and more permanent scale, the development of the long unheeded wealth of our gold fields.

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## APPENDIX.

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In 1864, the gold-bearing region of Lower Canada (the present Province of Quebec) was erected into two mining divisions—that of the Chaudière, comprising the Eastern section, or the Counties of Beauce, Dorchester, Montmagny, Bellechasse, &c., and that of St. Francis, comprising the Western section, and including the various counties extending from the Western boundary of the District of Beauce to Lake Champlain, better known as the Eastern Townships.

The parish of St. Francis (Rigaud-Vaudreuil), and the more widely known gold-bearing streams, such as the Gilbert, Du Loup, Des Plantes, Famine, Etchemin, Stafford, Monument, &c., are situated in the Chaudière Division, of which the actual Inspector is Mr. H. J. J. Duchesnay, whose head-quarters and Post Office address are "Ste. Marie, Beauce."

At present, and for some time past, there has been no Inspector for the St. Francis Division.

The laws, which actually refer to gold mining, are the original Gold Mining Act of 1864, (27 and 28 Vict., ch. 9,) and the amendments to the same sanctioned in 1865, (29 Vict., ch. 9,) 1868, (31 Vict., ch. 21,) 1870, (33 Vict., ch. 29,) 1870, (34 Vict., ch. 14,) and during the last Session of the Provincial Legislature.

It may be interesting to note that, in the Chaudière division, the richest deposits yet discovered or worked, occur on the streams falling in on the Eastern bank of the Chaudière, though excellent indications have been found on the Western bank. It is understood that Mr. E. J. Dowley and Col. Lewis will conduct their operations on the latter side of the main river next season.

Attention is particularly asked to the following authentic extracts:—



## CANADA GEOLOGICAL REPORTS, 1853-6.

P. 370-1.

ANALYSIS, BY ASSAY, BY DR. T. STERRY HUNT.

A VEIN, which occurs at the Rapids of the Chaudière, in the Parish of St. Francis (Beauce), contains, in a gangue of quartz, galena, blende, arsenical sulphuret of iron, often well crystallized, besides cubic and magnetic iron pyrites, *and native gold in minute grains.* A portion of galena from the assorted and washed ore, still containing a mixture of blende and pyrites, gave by assay 69.0 p. c. of lead, and 32 OUNCES OF SILVER to the ton (2,240 pounds) of ore. ANOTHER SAMPLE of the galena, more carefully dressed, gave at the rate of 37 ounces of silver. The button of silver, obtained by cupellation from this lead, contained a small but appreciable quantity of gold. The assay of a second portion of the sample of ore which gave 69.0 per cent. of lead, afforded by cupellation a quantity of silver equal to not less than 256 ounces of silver to the ton. This amount of silver was probably due to the presence of a fragment of some silver ore, perhaps sulphuret in the mixture of crushed and dressed galena. These assays were each made upon 500 grains. 1000 grains of the PYRITES from this vein, mixed with a little blende, galena and arsenical ore, were roasted, and, then being mingled with litharge, borax and salt of tartar, were fused with the addition of fragments of iron, and a button of lead obtained, which left by cupellation a globule of 0.15 grains of an alloy of gold and silver. 700 grains of the impure blende were then roasted and treated in a similar manner, and gave by cupellation 0.19 grains of a pale yellow alloy; the buttons, thus obtained, contained a large proportion of gold, ESPECIALLY that from the BLENDE, which retained its form and assumed a deep yellow color, when, after having been beaten out, it was boiled with nitric acid and which dissolved a portion of silver.

GEOLOGY OF CANADA, 1863.

P. 517.

“ It is well known that the native sulphuret of lead is almost never free from silver, which is sometimes present

in so large a quantity as to constitute a silver ore. A vein, which occurs at the rapids of the Chaudière in St. Francis, Beauce, contains in a gangue of quartz, argentiferous galena, blende, mispickel, besides cubic and magnetic pyrites, with minute grains of native gold. A portion of galena, from the assorted and washed ore, which still retained an admixture of blende and pyrites, gave by assay 69. per cent. of lead, and 32 ounces of silver to the ton of 2,240 pounds of ore. The assay of a second portion of the same dressed sample gave, however, not less than 256 ounces of silver to the ton. This result was probably due to the presence of a fragment of native silver, or rich silver ore among the dressed galena; inasmuch as a third assay of another portion of the ore, more carefully dressed than the first, gave 37 ounces of silver to the ton. The silver, from the cupellation of the reduced lead, contained a little gold, and both silver and gold were obtained from the blende and pyrites of the same vein. 1000 grains of the pyrites, still mingled with a small portion of other ores, were roasted, and then fused with litharge, borax, salt of tartar and metallic iron. The resulting button of lead gave by cupellation 0.15 grains of an alloy of gold and silver. 700 grains of the blende, treated in the same manner, gave 0.19 grains of a similar alloy of a pale yellow color. The two precious metals seem thus to be generally disseminated throughout the ores of this vein.

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## GEOLOGY OF CANADA, 1863.

P. 738-9.

“*The lead ores, which are associated, in the form of interstratified masses, with the ores of copper of the Quebec group, as seen from the assays of the galena from Upton and Acton, contain but two or three ounces of silver to the ton; a quantity which is not worth the cost of extracting. IT IS OTHERWISE, however, with the galena which occurs in quartz veins cutting the upper slates of this region. That found with auriferous pyrites in Vaudreuil, on the Chaudière, gave 37 ounces of silver to the ton of lead.*”

“*IT IS WELL KNOWN that, with the present improved processes, so small a quantity as four ounces of silver MAY BE PROFITABLY extracted from a ton of lead.*”

## GEOLOGY OF CANADA, 1865.

P. 739.

The principal facts known with regard to the geological distribution of gold in Canada, will be found on pages 518-20. Mention is there made of a quartz vein at St. Francis, on the Chaudière, where small grains of native gold have been found imbedded in quartz, together with argentiferous galena, and sulphurets of zinc and iron, both containing gold, and with arsenical pyrites. Since writing the above pages, much larger specimens of gold have been found in quartz about 100 yards from the locality above mentioned. It is probable that this and similar quartz veins may be wrought with profit.

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## GEOLOGICAL REPORTS OF CANADA, 1863-9.

P. 54-5.

Report of A. Michel to Sir W. E. Logan. 1st February, 1866. "Alluvial gold has been profitably sought for in the Chaudière river itself, at its junction with several rapid tributary streams. But it is at the place called the Devil's Rapids, where the Chaudière makes a sharp turn, and runs W. S. W., that gold has been most abundantly found in the cavities, fissures and cracks of the clay-slates, which often form the bed, both of this river and its tributaries, and are here seen running in the direction just mentioned, forming parallel ridges which are uncovered at low water; at which times, the country people are enabled to break up and search these slaty rocks to the depth of several feet. The fissures of these rocks are filled with a clayey gravel, in which gold is met with; and I have seen the metal, to the value of several dollars, extracted from between the layers of the slate. In one of these bands of slate, which the country people call veins, the gold is tarnished by a black earthy oxide of manganese. This deposit of alluvial gold occupies about a mile of the river-bed, and is situated below the gold-bearing quartz-vein, which you have described in your report for 1853-56, page 370, and which is known in this locality as the O'Farrell vein; it has now been broken down to the level of the slates. I was assured that the alluvial gold was found in greater abundance and in larger pieces in its vicinity.

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In 1865, Mr. S. J. Dawson was examined before the Select Committee of the Legislature, and made the following among other statements:—

“ During the summer and fall of 1863, and since that period, I travelled a great deal through the Chaudière Gold Mining Division. From the opening of the navigation in the spring of 1864, until its close, and even up to the present time, I have constantly had parties exploring, surveying and prospecting ” in different parts of the country, and, in two instances I made the experiment of sluicing in situations far beyond where it had ever been attempted before, that is, much further to the south.

“ That gold was to be found in small quantities over a wide area, was a fact which had become generally known, from the reports of the Geological Survey, and it was also known that works of some magnitude had at one period been carried on, with varying success, but on the whole profitably, on the Rivers Du Loup and Famine.

“ It was not, however, until the summer of 1863, that the proofs of the remarkable richness of the alluvial deposits in some localities and the auriferous character of the quartz generally, throughout the entire region, became so convincing as to render legislation necessary, and this led, in the first instance, to the regulations of last April, already referred to, and ultimately to the passing of the Act of last Session. Previous to that period, settlement had advanced but slowly, more especially in the townships near the Province line. The lands in some of these townships had been surveyed, and in the market, for upwards of thirty years, and yet they were neither sold nor settled; many lots indeed which had been granted to pensioners and others for military services, had been abandoned, and in some instances I have found it difficult, and in others impossible to trace the owners although I had instituted inquiries with the view of purchasing their lands. Recently, the unconceded lands have been rapidly taken up, and the discovery of gold will not have been without its advantage, if it should have no other effect than that of drawing settlement to the townships which have so long lain waste and unproductive on the frontiers of the Province.

“The streams have, except at long intervals, an exceedingly rapid course, and although they do not exactly run upon sands of gold, I believe there is not a rivulet or brook in the whole region where particles of gold may not easily be found.

“From the nature of the rock, yielding easily as it does to the continuous action of water, there are but few perpendicular falls. The descent is, nevertheless, very considerable, and the places are rare where sufficient fall might not be obtained for hydraulic mining, or any other purpose for which water power may be required.

“The country has been explored, and in many places closely examined, by scientific men and experienced miners. Rich deposits of alluvial gold have been found in various places, more especially on the Gilbert, Famine, Du Loup and Metgermette, on all of which rivers it was dug out in paying quantities during the past summer. On the Portage, the Traveller's Rest, the Oliva, and upper Du Loup, “prospecting” was carried on in a systematic manner, and at a very considerable outlay and, as regards the mere discovery of gold and the high probability that further exploration would develop it in paying quantities, with unvarying success.

“I may further mention that very fine “prospects” of alluvial gold were found on the Samson and Nibuellis, two streams which enter the Chaudière from the south, below lake Megantic. On these streams, however, prospecting was only carried on to an extent sufficient to shew the existence of gold in some abundance, and its very general diffusion. Alluvial gold was also found on the stream which flows from Woburn to Lake Megantic, and I was shown some fine nuggets, said to have been obtained on that stream.

“I was also shewn rough gold found on the upper tributaries of the Famine, in the Township of Ware, and in the Townships of Buckland and Standon, I am credibly informed that very fair prospects were obtained.

“When, in connection with the discovery of alluvial gold over such an extensive tract of country, it is considered that

the quartz throughout the same region has been found to be generally auriferous, it will be admitted that the operations of the past summer have been attended with results such as will at least bring the country into notice, and lead to operations on a more extensive scale."

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Professor Wurtz, of the United States Assay Office, New-York, has investigated the subject with some care and the conclusions at which he has arrived, more especially with regard to the quartz lodes of the Chaudière district, are well worthy of notice.

Arguing that the alluvial gold of the district is derived from the lodes of quartz which traverse the country itself, Professor Wurtz maintains—

*"That no more reason exists in the case of this gold field (the Chaudière) for regarding the quartz lodes as unworthy of exploration and leaving them untouched, as has heretofore been done, than existed for the same procedure in California, Australia, or Colorado, in each of which the same course of incredulity had sway before actual mining developments in the quartz confounded the unbelievers."*

"Silver is always found associated with the gold to the extent of from 10 to 15 per cent. Argentiferous galena is met with in the quartz lodes, and some specimens of quartz have, on assay, yielded as much as \$30 and even \$256 of silver to the ton. It is also found in the black sand as will appear on reference to my answer to query 8.

"Copper is very generally distributed in the form of copper pyrites and, in the upper part of the gold mining division, it is found more abundant in the quartzites than in the gold bearing quartz lodes. A promising vein of copper ore was opened last summer at Ste. Marie; and, at St. Claire, on the Etchemin, to judge from the specimens I have seen, some of which I now produce, I am fully confident that it might be obtained in paying quantities. Copper ore is said to be abundant in other parts of the division, but of this I cannot speak from personal observation.

“In regard to developing the resources of the gold region, it can best be effected by giving every reasonable encouragement to those who invest their capital in opening it up. If there has been anything to complain of hitherto, it has been an excess of legislation and an over-active and ever varying management.

“A little aid in the way of opening roads, would tend greatly to the development of the country, and the money arising from the sale of lands in the division should, I think, be laid out in this way, for it could not be more profitably invested as it would thus be the means of drawing settlement to the mining region.

“The Government, so far, has not contributed anything to the development of the mines, and, seeing that the revenue from the sale of lands has been considerable, I think some slight aid might very reasonably be looked for. The work as I have already stated, which I consider the most important is a road from Jersey Point along the banks of the Chaudière to Lake Megantic, and I trust the Committee will not fail to urge its importance upon the Legislature.”

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Col. Rankin, M.P., testified as follows, with regard to the DeLéry Patent, and generally as to the best means of developing our gold-fields:—

The patent is most decidedly injurious, if it is good for anything; and it is very injurious to the farmer. There must be between two thousand and three thousand inhabitants in the seigniority of Vaudreuil, about six hundred families. About two-thirds of the land is conceded and is the property of the farmers. Mr. DeLéry retains upwards of twenty-two thousand acres, which cannot be disturbed.

Do you think the existence of that patent affects the price of lands at the present time?

Most unquestionably. It would not affect the price of my land, as I would take no less for it by reason of the existence of the patent than otherwise; it does, though, as regards other parties. A friend of mine tried to sell a piece

of land, very favorably situated, while in New York; the owner could have got \$50,000 in gold for it, but for the existence of the patent, which deterred parties from buying at all. I could purchase land from *habitants* for much less than if I did they did not believe the patent operative. It would work injuriously as respects the development of the resources of the country, and prevent its settlement or development; and would cause land to be sold at a great disadvantage. No practical miner who studied the thing would take those lands and bind himself to perform the conditions of the patent, which exacted from the miner ten per cent., not of the gross profits of the mine, but of all he took out of the ground; and must leave him without enough to keep himself in food. No practical miner would ever undertake to pay this amount. The difficulty would be greater if the holder of the lands was to be subjected to the enforcement of the conditions.

Can you give us any information as to the working of the Act of 1864, or as to how it can be amended to make it beneficial?

My impression when the Act was passed was, that we should have some law by which miner's rights could be preserved, and those of private individuals protected. So far from its being wise to impose charges on men going out to develop such a country, it would have been much better if the Government had abstained from requiring payment of any license at all, and had offered to pay a price or bonus to the party who first discovered a nugget of some certain weight, I think the Government should rejoice at any cause tending to make people flock to an undeveloped country; and that it should, instead of discouraging, induce people to go to such a wilderness and develop it at their own expense. So far as the law was concerned, if it was necessary to have law, I see no great objection to it, except that the present Act made the claims ridiculously small, and made the licenses renewable too often. They should be given for a whole year. Then what harm could there be in giving 500 feet of a claim instead of 25 feet.

By MR. TASCHEREAU:—

Public opinion is that Mr. DeLéry has a good right to the gold under his patent?



Yes ; but the class of people among whom that opinion prevails cannot read and do not judge for themselves.

When is the ten per cent. due to the Government ?

It is due after Mr. DeLéry "smelts." That condition also satisfies me the patent is good for nothing. It was unconstitutional ever to make such a grant, and it was subjecting parties to conditions that could not be put into force. By it the holders of the patent had the privilege of working for gold without paying anything to the Crown, until they smelted according to the practise in 1601. In my opinion, IT IS ABSOLUTELY A FRAUD.

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