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Dwyer, Mr. &
Mrs. M., Coll.
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READ, THINK AND REASON

To the reader, the following is submitted in confidence and while you are at liberty to show this Book (which is loaned to you) to friends, the writer asks you to avoid letting it get into the hands of those representing the public press.

Mr. F. L. Blair whose name appears in the story was Secretary-Treasurer of the Oak Island Treasure Company, which operated there about thirty-three years ago and for over thirty years has held and carried at his personal expense all rights, to recover the treasure, from the Government and owner of the Island, but for reasons I can personally explain has not succeeded in financing to again take up the work of recovery.

Mr. William Chappell, who worked under orders of the Management of the Oak Island Treasure Company about twenty months, acquired certain knowledge of conditions and methods that should be applied to recover the treasure and the writer has succeeded, during the past three years, in bringing them to a mutual agreement which we think to be fair and reasonable to all now interested and also to those who may join us in the work to be started as soon as practicable.

Fifty percent of the estimated cost has been guaranteed by a few persons who are absolutely convinced that a treasure of great value is there and firmly believe it can be recovered.

To get out this book the writer has spent much time accumulating historical facts regarding the probability of immense treasures being buried on Oak Island and the story of work performed there by those who have searched for and located the treasure since 1795 and in this has been assisted by Dr. W. A. Creelman, LL.D. of Sydney, and Mr. Blair, while William Chappell, whose affidavit appears in the Book, reserves certain knowledge of conditions and plans of operations which he will apply as manager of the recovery work, now under consideration.

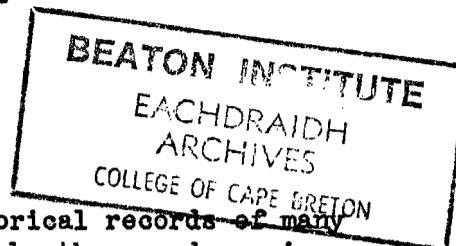
Yours truly,

(Sgd.) R. R. CHAPPELL.

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WAS ANYTHING OF GREAT VALUE EVER BURIED
ON OAK ISLAND? IF SO IS IT STILL
THERE? TO THOSE INTO WHOSE
HANDS THIS MAY COME WE
SAY READ, THINK
AND REASON



The following authentic quotations taken from historical records of many writers and the records of actual discoveries made by those endeavoring to solve the mystery, should be sufficient to convince even a skeptical cynic that the most mysterious and competent work of ancient engineering on the American Continent was performed several hundred years ago on Oak Island in Chester Bay, Nova Scotia.

Innumerable magazine and newspaper articles have been written about Oak Island, and the subject has formed a chapter in various books. Those who are interested in the details can get them in Ralph D. Paine's "Book of Buried Treasure", A Hyatt Verrill's "Lost Treasures", and Charles B. Driscoll's "Doubloons". The Oak Island Treasure has been investigated from every angle and proved true in all its essential features; and the narrative is amply supported by a wealth of evidence and affidavits.

Ralph D. Paine, in his authoritative work, "Book of Buried Treasure" writes:

"The most convincing evidence of a pirates' rendezvous and hoard has been found at Oak Island, Nova Scotia. In fact this is the true treasure-story, par excellence, of the whole Atlantic coast."

A. Hyatt Verrill, the eminent author and authority on treasure, in his "Lost Treasures", has this to say:

"Here is perhaps the most mysterious treasure in the entire world, a treasure which, though known to exist, has never been recovered-- and which is undoubtedly the most remarkable concealed treasure known."

Charles B. Driscoll, the author and specialist in pirate lore, who owns the largest collection of pirate books and manuscripts in America, says :

"I know where treasure is buried in a dozen places on this globe, but the most extraordinary buried treasure I know anything about is far from the tracks of all buccaneers. It is deep in the soil of Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia. There is a buried treasure on Oak Island, if there is a buried treasure anywhere."

The story of the search for this treasure extends back to 1795, and is an authentic account of numerous attempts made since that year to solve the mystery which centers on the Island.

All work done in connection with every attempt to recover this treasure has been conducted with but one object in view, i.e., that of reaching the required depth in the so-called "Treasure Pit" discovered and opened by the original searchers.

At this site it has been conclusively proved that a vast amount of work was done at some remote epoch, in an exceedingly well conceived and efficient manner, to conceal and protect something. This something can hardly, in all human probability, be other than of great value. Men do not undertake stupendous works for mere caprice or the concealment of trifles.

Each attempt to recover the treasure, after the initial attempt, was based on and encouraged by information obtained directly from predecessors; and as the work progressed from one attempt to another, additional proof of the original work was exposed.

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Excavation and drilling by various groups of local people have brought to light many facts of conclusive nature. The first discoverers accidentally discovered a depression beneath a live oak tree and subsequent digging in this pit, 13 feet in diameter, disclosed wood platforms, putty and charcoal layers each ten feet for ninety feet, also a large stone with undecipherable words, subsequently lost. The pit was then flooded by water from the sea entering in some then unknown manner. It was later learned that a tunnelled inlet had been built to a nearby beach, where five artificial channels as well as the tunnel had been filled with beach stone, covered with a fibrous material and recovered with sand. No method was devised to effectively shut off this water, and no competent engineering skill has ever been engaged on this project. Further digging and drilling disclosed that the pit has a depth of at least 155 feet, that cement, iron, as well as wood construction was used. Pieces of parchment and metal have been recovered.

Competent engineers have estimated that it took great crews of men working for at least two years to make this excavation. Their work was competently done, defying all amateur efforts to date to recover the treasure. During previous operations 66 inches of loose metal has been drilled through. Its value, if gold would run into millions of dollars, as each four cubic feet of gold amounts to more than a million dollars.

Many conjectures concerning the possible source of the treasure have been made. Some assert that it is the treasure of some pirate, possibly of Morgan. Others see in it a solution of the disappearance of huge treasure during the Protectorate of Cromwell, after the execution of Charles I. Many others assert that it is the work of the Vikings, who may have had a colony at this location. Whatever it is, its value for archaeological and historical purposes will far outweigh its value as bullion or mere precious metal. Such values, as historical articles or objects d'art, are above computation as museum material.

It will be understood that any estimate is wholly problematical; but the statement is well grounded that at Oak Island a very great reward awaits those who successfully complete the recovery of this most mysterious and stupendous of known treasures.

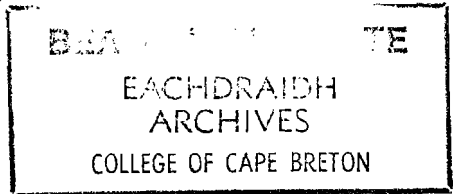
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WERE PIRATES EVER KNOWN TO HAVE
BEEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
OAK ISLAND?
AN INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY

BY

W. A. CREELMAN, LL.D.



Since the middle of the eighteenth century, tales of pirates and hidden gold have been gradually passing from the realm of reality to that of romance; but along the Atlantic seaboard of North America in the seventeenth century, pirates in ugly reality sailed the seas not only in single ships, but at times in fleets.

It is an unquestioned matter of history that in those good old days the whole coast from New England down to the far Carolinas swarmed with these ear-ringed scoundrels of the sea.

With these men-living in open defiance of all laws-men who openly plied their so-called "Red Sea" trade and made "Arab Gold" a common medium of exchange, many respectable, church-going merchants of New York, Philadelphia and Charleston were - in the secret chambers of their counting houses - hand and glove.

From the time when the American Commonwealths began to take their place in the commerce of the world, smuggling was the rule rather than the exception among the thousands of colonials who in pursuit of gain went down to the sea in ships. England by her "Trade and Navigation and Fishery Acts" attempted in vain to put a stop to this widespread trading in contraband; yet long before these Acts ever saw the light in "Old Westminster", pirates had become familiar figures in the taverns around Bowling Green along the water front of New York.

A matter-of-fact man, however, might ask at this point, what has authentic history to say on all this? As the question is a pertinent one, let us look into history:

In Johnston's "History of the Pirates" and Esquemelings "Buccanneers of America", one reads that rich merchants in New York City, as well as men prominent in the official ~~the~~ life of the Commonwealth, were often the sleeping partners of these pistol-belted sea-rouges who grew

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wealthy by plundering the treasure-laden galleys of Spain and the well-lined trading ships both of the West and the East Indies.

The robbers made no secret about it at all. In fact any well-known pirate ship could lie quietly at anchor in the harbor of seventeenth-century New York without exciting any more comment than would the presence of a Gloucester fisherman in any of our Maritime harbors today.

Coming to publications more modern, perhaps the greatest authority today among the new, twentieth century school in American history, is Sydney George Fisher; and on page 20 of his "True History of the Americal Revolution", you will read of pirates and piracy in American waters as follows:

"In early colonial times, piracy had been almost openly practiced, and respectable people - even governors of colonies - were interested in the profits. The distinction between privateering, smuggling, piracy and Bucaneering was light; the steps from one to the other was easy. PROTECTION TO PIRATES WERE OPENLY SOLD IN NEW YORK CITY and handsome presents given to the Governor and his daughters. It was a profitable occupation and pursued as eagerly as modern stock-jobbing and speculation. Charleston was equally deep in the business.

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Lord Bellamont was sent out from England in 1695 as Governor of New York as the result of what we would not call a "Reform Movement". He reported, 'a most lycencious trade with pyrates' 'The people of New York' he wrote, 'grow rich, but the customs, They decrease'."

But Coming down now to bed rock - or rather to the bed clay of Oak Island and the treasure that undoubtedly lie buried there, the matter-of-fact reader may ask also - as he has the most perfect right to ask - what evidence from some unquestioned history can be produced to back up this cock-and-bull story about Oak Island? Or what evidence, in fact, exists that pirates, even in those admittedly piratic times, were ever seen at all along the then bleak shores of Nova Scotia? I, who am writing this have over and over again been asked just such questions as these, and I'll answer them now as I did before:

Leaving Captain Kidd - who not likely ever came within hailing distance of Nova Scotia and who was never proven to have been a pirate at all - entirely out of the question, the fact that pirates in large numbers assembled once upon a time at LaHave on the Lunenburg coast, has been a matter of provincial history for over a hundred years. And if any should ask - what has LaHave got to do with Oak Island - the answer

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is this: Oak Island lies in Chester Bay and Chester Bay is just around the corner, as one might say, from the mouth of Old Historic LaHave. Furthermore, this Bay of Chester was in the seventeenth century probably the best lurking and hiding place for these sea-robbers to be found along the whole American seaboard from Isle Royale to Florida.

Imagine, if you can, a half century before the founding of Halifax - the absolute desolation that must have reigned along that Nova Scotia coast. In those early years ships could have lain hidden until they rotted in that Nova Scotian Bay of Islands now known as Chester Bay, and no one ever the wiser except the Captains and the crews. No reasoning man would ever doubt this who had once sailed in behind the Tancooks and looked around him ⁱⁿ that little forest bound sea with its hundreds of islands: islands that by their wooded heights and coves must then have assured a hiding place for ships equal - if not superior - to any that have ever been described in fiction.

And to say that the pirates, whom we shall show as having once infested the neighboring LaHave, never knew of Oak Island in days when their daily business was to lie hidden until some ship of New England came up over the southern sky-line, would only be to state the extremely improbable. Around the year 1700 A.D. pirates in large numbers were assembled at LaHave to plunder the ships of New England; and to do this most effectively, why it goes without saying that in twos and threes they would have taken cover and watched the seas from the bays all along that coast.

It might be even again asked, however, what would a pirate or any number of pirates for that matter, want - at the beginning of the eighteenth century - to hide their treasures on Oak Island or elsewhere, instead of wasting it and making a display of it as in the Old Bowling Green days. That question is answered in one of the lines quoted from Fisher's history. This one:-

"Lord Bellamont was sent out from England in 1695 as the result of what we would now call "A Reform Movement."

This so called, "Reform Movement", was nothing more nor less than a determined effort on the part of England to sweep these pirates

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off the seas; and so successful were many of England's ships of the line in this sea-cleaning business that, in ever increasing numbers, skull-and-crossbones ships were being sent to the bottom of the sea while in swinging batches their crews were being hung as high as Haman. The effect of all this on these brethren of the wave was to render them cautious and somewhat timid. Their ships began to seek cover - at times were forced to run for cover; the old vaunting, swashbuckling days were gone. Their business, in fine, was ceasing to be either a safe or a profitable one.

Under such changed conditions, therefore, what would you very likely have talked about, had you in some hidden cove made one of a group of these now hunted men? To be caught with the "Goods" was certain death; cleared of these "goods" - hidden until better times and governors of the old kidney ruled again - meant perhaps a chance with a golden provision for old age. Or, again, what would you in all likelihood have considered as a wise, not-to-be-delayed move on your part, had you been a bloody pirate, sailing with others on the high seas with stolen goods below decks and a hundred cut-throats for a crew above decks, if some tall English ships of the line came looming up over the horizon? Is it an unreasonable assumption that - knowing the latitude of Oak Island - knowing its possibilities for you - you would have barked an order to that ear-ringed scoundrel at the wheel to head her Nor-Nor East or West as your location then might be - and that all the other ships sailing with you would have done the same?

I shall now give the history facts connecting Nova Scotia with all this. For we in Nova Scotia can likewise boast that in our annals are true tales of governors and pirates and plundered ships away back yonder in the good old times when piratic songs like, "Yo Ho who'll sail to the Main with me?" were more familiar in certain Atlantic ports than some forerunner of "Rock of Ages." We turn for information to Nova Scotia's first historian and America's pioneer humorist, Thomas Chandler Haliburton. On page 82 of his "Historical Account of Nova Scotia", we read of Acadia in 1700 as follows:

"Brouillan, the Governor of Acadia, was ordered to encourage the trade of LaHave, to rebuild and enlarge the fortifications and to prevent as far as possible the English colonies from participating in the fish-

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eries. The condition of Canada did not permit him to hope frem for succour from the Commander in Chief (at Quebec) and in the absence of a naval force he solicited the assistance of the pirates who at that time infested the shores of the Atlantic. Upon this invitation they resorted in GREAT NUMBERS to LAHAVE which was favorably situated for committing depredations on the trade of Massachusetts. The money which was thus thrown into circulation and the quantities of merchandise which they disposed of, afforded him the means of paying the savages whom he instigated against the people of New e England".

That's history. But owing to the fact that the treasure chambers at Oak Island have twice been proven to exist from evidence of boring operations, evidence vouched for by men of the highest standing and belonging to more than one generation of Nova Scotians, history in consequence is not necessary here.

Yet to any who may ask as others before them have asked - what evidence from history is there that pirates were ever at or near Oak Island - the above should surely supply all the answer necessary.

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Many remarkable accounts have been given of treasure of unparalleled richness concealed in times past by hands of freebooters that at one time infested the American Atlantic seaboard.

Of all these treasure stories there is one which stands out prominently above all others both as to existence of hidden hoards and as to the facts connected therewith which many years ago were accepted as absolutely authentic. It is the story of fabulous riches long ago buried by pirates or freebooters on Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

The probability of buried treasure is so great that it has, during the past one hundred years, caused a number of efforts to be made by men of intelligence and ability to search for treasure on Oak Island, and large sums of money have been sacrificed in the quest.

The existence of this treasure is firmly believed by men of high standing; and several companies in times past have been organized to carry on a search for it.

It is safe to say that all the men who have ever worked on Oak Island in search of buried treasure believe that eventually treasure will be recovered on this Island.

The history herein given is a statement of facts related by men who have had an active part in prospecting on Oak Island. From these facts it can readily be proved;

- (a) That a pit about thirteen feet in diameter and one hundred (or more) feet deep was sunk on Oak Island before the memory of any one now living;
- (b) That this pit was connected by an underground tunnel with the ocean about 460 feet distant;
- (c) That at the bottom of the pit were placed large wooden boxes containing metal in pieces and also much other material foreign to the natural formation;
- (d) That it is reasonably certain that the treasure is large, not only from boring tests, but from the fact that so much trouble was taken and expense incurred to conceal it.

The bucaners found an ideal haven in Mahone Bay. The rugged hills reach out long arms on either side, enclosing a sheet of water about twenty miles long by twelve wide. Across the entrance, Tancook Islands present a high breakwater against the mists and storms of the Atlantic. Innumerable coves alternate with bold peninsulas and 365 islands lie

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scattered about the Bay. Once inside the Tancooks, the pirates might loiter at pleasure absolutely secure from detection behind the sheltering capes and Islands.

Oak Island is situate near the head of the Bay, about four miles from the town of Chester. A narrow channel separates it from the mainland of Western shore. The Island is about a mile long and half as wide. Its formation is a very hard, tough clay. At its Eastern extremity lies a little crescent shaped bay, - "Smith's Cove", whose shores were originally bordered with large oak trees. A number of these may still be seen.

A century ago, in this portion of the country, settlers were few and far between, and Oak Island was without a single inhabitant.

A history of this Island was published in pamphlet form by the Oak Island Treasure Company, Incorporated by Boston parties in 1893.

We quote:-

"In 1795 three men, Smith, McGinnis and Vaughan, visited Oak Island and while rambling over the Eastern part of it, came to a cleared space where the unusual and strange conditions at once attracted their attention.

Mr. Vaughan was only a lad of sixteen at the time and subsequently related these facts to a Mr. Robert Creelman who was afterwards the Manager of a company formed to mine for the treasure.

The space referred to had every appearance of having been cleared many years before. Red clover and other plants, foreign to the soil in its natural state, were growing. Near the center stood a larger oak tree with marks and figures on its trunk. One of the lower and larger of its branches, the outer end of which had been sawed off, projected directly over the center of a deep circular depression in the land about thirteen feet in diameter. These and other "signs" induced the three men named to commence digging in this depression shortly after it had been discovered.

After excavating a few feet, they found that they were working in a well defined pit, the walls of which were hard and solid, and it is said that in some places on the walls, old pick marks were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required.

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On reaching a depth of ten feet the workmen came to a covering of tier of logs, the ends embedded in the walls of the pit evidently for the purpose of carrying the weight of the earth above and thereby intending to prevent a subsidence at the surface. They kept on digging until a depth of thirty feet was reached, finding marks at each ten feet. At this depth the work proved to be too heavy for them.

The people were superstitious in that part of the country at the time, and on this account, Smith and his associates were unable to get any help to continue the work and were forced to abandon it.

FIRST COMPANY FORMED

During an interval of six or seven years, accounts of the wonderful discoveries already mentioned had spread over the Province and a Mr. Lynds, of Truro, Nova Scotia, visited the Island and also interviewed Messrs. Smith, Vaughan and McGinnis.

On his return to Truro, a company was formed for the purpose of continuing the search. Several prominent men belonging to Halifax, Colchester and Pictou Counties, N.S., took an active interest in it, among whom were Col. Robert Archibald, Sheriff Harris and Capt. David Archibald. Work was at once commenced by this Company and the pit was excavated to a depth of ninety-five feet.

Marks were found every ten feet, as before, and an iron bar was frequently used in taking soundings. The ninety foot mark was a flat stone about three feet long and sixteen inches wide. On it strange characters had been cut. Afterwards it was placed in the jamb of a fireplace that Mr. Smith was building in his house, and while there was viewed by a great many people. Many years afterwards the stone was removed from the chimney and taken to Halifax to have, if possible, the characters deciphered. No satisfactory interpretation could be made by the experts who examined the characters on the stone.

Until the depth of ninety-five feet was reached, no water had been encountered, neither had sand or gravel through which water could possibly percolate been met.

It was Saturday evening when the depth of ninety-five feet had been reached and by sounding with a bar a wooden platform was struck three feet below. This platform extended over the entire surface of the pit as was revealed by further soundings.

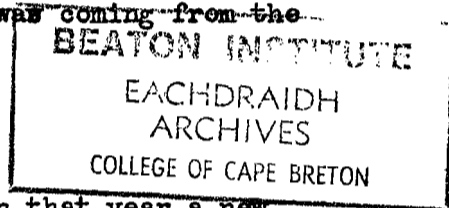
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Monday when the men returned to work they found water in the pit to within thirty or thirty-five feet of the surface. Work was immediately commenced to bail out the water and continued day and night for a time, but without success.

It was then decided to sink a shaft a few feet to the East of the old pit to the depth of 110 feet for the purpose of draining the "Money Pit", so called.

Work had begun at once on this shaft and continued until the depth of 110 feet was reached, no water being met with, but while driving a tunnel in the direction of the "Money Pit", the water suddenly burst in. It was found impossible to handle the water and operations by this Company were abandoned.

At this time there was no thought that the water pouring into the "Money Pit", and thence into the 110 foot shaft was coming from the Ocean.



SECOND COMPANY FORMED

Until 1849 nothing further was done, but in that year a new Company was formed and operations were resumed.

At this time two of the "old diggers", namely: Mr. Lynds, of Truro, and Mr. Vaughan, of Western Shore, were still living, and gave the Manager much valuable information regarding the old workings and expressed their firm belief in the existence of treasure in the "Money Pit". Mr. Vaughan, in looking over the ground located the site of the "Money Pit", which in the meantime had caved in and about filled up. Digging was commenced and went on without interruption until the depth of eighty-six feet had been reached, when the water again so interfered with operations that the workmen were obliged to leave the pit. An unsuccessful attempt was made to bail the water out with bailing casks.

Shortly after, men with boring apparatus of primitive description, used in prospecting for coal, were sent to the Island. Mr. J.B. McCully, of Truro, was manager. A platform was constructed in the "Money Pit", about thirty feet below the surface and just above the water. The boring started with a pod auger and we submit a verbatim statement made by Mr. McCully.

"The platform was struck at ninety feet, just as the diggers

found it when sounding with the iron bar. After going through the platform, which was five inches thick, and proved to be spruce, the auger dropped twelve inches and then went through four inches of Oak then through twenty-two inches of metal in pieces, but the auger failed to bring up anything in the nature of treasure except three links resembling the links of a watch chain. The auger then went through eight inches of oak, which was through to be the bottom of the first box and top of the next, then twenty-two inches of metal, the same as before, and four inches of oak and six inches of spruce, then into clay seven feet without striking anything else.

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"In boring a second hole the platform was struck as before at ninety-eight feet; passing through this, the auger fell about eighteen inches and came in contact with (as supposed) the side of a cask. The auger revolving close to the side of the cask gave a jerky and irregular motion. On withdrawing the auger several splinters of oak, such as might come from the side of an oak stave, and a small quantity of a brown fibrous substance, closely resembling the husk of a cocconut, were brought up. The difference between the upper and lower platform, was six feet. #

The late John Cammel, of Upper Stewiacke, N.S., was present at this boring. He was a large shareholder, and his veracity could not be questioned. He stated that he saw Mr. Pitbaldo, the foreman, take something out of the auger, wash and examine it closely, then put it in his pocket. When asked by Mr. Cammel to show what it was, he declined and said he would show it at the next meeting of directors, but Pitbaldo failed to appear at this meeting. Shortly after he was accidentally killed in a gold mine.

Nothing further was done until the following summer (1850) when a new shaft was sunk to the depth of 109 feet at the West side of the "Money Pit", and about ten feet from it. Mr. A. A. Tupper, then of Upper Stewiacke, N.S., who helped sink this shaft, gave the following account:-

"A tunnel was driven from the bottom in the direction of the "Money Pit". Just before reaching the "Money Pit", the water burst in the workers fled for their lives, and in twenty minutes there was forty-five feet of water in the new shaft. The sole object in view in sinking this shaft was to increase the bailing facilities, for which purpose preparations had been made, and bailing was resumed in both the new and old shafts, each being equipped with two 2-horse gins. Work was carried on night and day for about a week, but all in vain, the only difference being that with the doubled appliances, the water could be kept at a lower level."

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WATER IN PIT CAME FROM OCEAN

About this time, the discovery was made that the water was salt, and that it rose and fell in the shafts with the flow and ebb of the tides. It was considered extremely improbable that the water came through a natural channel, and if not through a natural, it necessarily must be through an artificial channel, having its inlet somewhere on the shore.

In support of the theory that the water did not enter the "Money Pit" through a natural channel, it was argued that had it done so, the original diggers (supposed to be pirates), must have struck it, and if they had, it is certain that the workmen would have been driven from the pit by the great flow of water, and the pit would necessarily have been abandoned. This, evidently was not the case as we have ample evidence from the fact that the wooden platforms were carefully placed in position near the bottom of the "Money Pit", (see the account of borings already given) as well as the fact that the "Pit" had been systematically filled up, with marks placed at every ten feet.

Acting on this theory of an artificial channel or tunnel, a search was at once begun. Smith's Cove, on the extreme Eastern end of the Island and about 460 feet from the "Money Pit", was first examined by reason of its many natural advantages as a starting point for making a tunnel, and from the fact that at about the center of this cove it had always been noticed that at low tide, water was running out of the sand.

SHORE END OF TUNNEL DISCOVERED

The result of a few minutes' shovelling on the beach proved beyond a doubt that the place looked for had been found. After removing the sand and gravel covering the beach, the workmen came to a covering or layer of brown fibrous plant, - the fibre very much resembling the husk of the coconut, and when compared with the plant that was bored out of the "Money Pit", no difference in the two could be detected. This layer, about two inches in thickness, covered a surface extending

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145 feet along the shore line and from a little above low water to high water mark. About four or five inches of eel grass covering the same area was found underlying the fibrous plant, and under this was a compact mass of beach rocks free from sand or gravel.

It was impracticable to remove these rocks and make a further search unless the tide was kept back. Accordingly a coffer dam was built along this part of the Cove, including the boundaries just described.

After removing the rocks nearest low water, it was found that the clay (which with the sand and gravel originally formed the beach) had been dug out and removed and replaced by beach rocks. Resting on this excavation were five well constructed drains formed by laying parallel lines of rocks about eight inches apart and covering the same with flat stones. These drains commenced at different points a considerable distance apart, but covered towards a common center at the inner side of the excavation. With the exception of these drains, the other rocks had evidently been thrown in promiscuously.

Work went on until half of the rocks had been removed where the clay banks at the sides showed a depth of five feet at which depth a partially burned piece of oak wood was found.

About this time an unusually high tide overflowed the top of the dam, and as it had not been constructed to resist pressure from the inside, when the tide receded, it was carried away. To rebuild it would cost a lot of money, and as there still remained a large amount of rocks to be removed and as there could be no reasonable doubt that the place described was the outwork of and starting point of a tunnel by which the water was conveyed to the bottom of the "Money Pit", it was decided to abandon the work on the shore.

Another shaft was sunk on the South side of the "Money Pit", and to a depth of 118 feet; this made the fourth one (including the "Money Pit") that had been put down in such close proximity to each other that a circle fifty feet in diameter would include the whole.

As already stated, this new shaft was 118 feet deep, - a greater depth by eight feet than had previously been reached. A tunnel

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was driven towards and reached a point directly under a part at least of the bottom of the "Money Pit".

MONEY PIT COLLAPSES

While the men were out at dinner a great crash was heard. Rushing back to the works they found that the bottom of the "Money Pit" had fallen into the tunnel that had been vacated a short time before and that the new shaft was fast filling with water. Subsequently it was found that twelve feet of mud had been driven by the force of water from the "Money Pit" to the new shaft.

WORK ABANDONED UNTIL 1863

The funds of this Company in the meantime having been exhausted nothing was done that we are aware of until 1863. In that year another effort was made to overcome the water and to secure the long searched for treasure. This time a powerful engine and pump were brought on the ground. The engine was placed in position with the pump in the 118 foot shaft, and the work of clearing out the water and the twelve feet of mud at the bottom of the shaft commenced. The intention was to clear out the shaft and the tunnel between it and the "Money Pit" where the treasure was supposed to have fallen when the cave-in above mentioned took place.

The undertaking proved to be very difficult, as the flow of water was heavy, and on account of this and other obstacles, little progress was made, but as the water on its way from the "Money Pit" to the pump had to pass through many feet of loose earth, it was possible to keep the water in the shaft below the 100 foot level.

The men engaged in the underground work (one of whom was A.A. Tupper, before mentioned) got the idea that the shaft was in danger of caving in and some of them refused to go into it. An expert examination was made of the shaft, and it was reported to be in a very unsafe condition and was forthwith condemned. The Pump was withdrawn, the shaft abandoned and the work was suspended.

HALIFAX COMPANY ORGANIZED.

About this time a company of Halifax capitalists were organized and shortly after operations ceased, negotiations were entered into and an agreement was made with the Company to clean out the old "Money Pit" for

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a share of any treasure that might be recovered.

The Company put down a new shaft and endeavored to overcome the flow of water, but failed.

A number of tunnels were driven at a level of from 95 to 110 feet in an unsuccessful attempt to intercept the so-called "pirate tunnel" and thereby convey the water to the Halifax Company's shaft, thus leaving the "Money Pit" comparatively dry. The Company abandoned work and the pump and engine were taken back to Halifax.

The tunnels driven by the Halifax Company gave a good deal of trouble to those afterwards operating on the Island.

As a further and conclusive proof of the connection between the ocean and the "Money Pit", it might be stated that during the latter part of the pumping by the Halifax Company, the water came up clear and pure, and that careful comparison of water taken from the shaft and from the ocean, failed to show the least difference in color or in taste. An effort was also made to check the flow of water by dumping on the beach the clay that had been taken from the shaft, and within half an hour after the beach had been stirred up by the teams and by the dumping of the clay, the water came up muddy in the shaft.

AIR SHAFT CAVES IN

After it had been satisfactorily proved that there was an artificial channel or tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit", experienced miners contended against a tunnel of so great a length unless it could be shown that an air shaft had been made on the Island for the purpose of ventilation, and search was made at different times to find this air shaft.

Some years ago the owner of that part of the Island where operations had been carried on in search of treasure, was plowing with oxen near the "Money Pit" and when about eighty feet from the pit and over the supposed line of tunnel, ^{the} ground suddenly gave way under the oxen and they went down into a hole caused by the cave-in from six to eight feet in diameter and from ten to fifteen feet in depth."

So much for the extracts from the published pamphlet.

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OPERATIONS OF THE OAK ISLAND TREASURE COMPANY

This Company (inc. 1893) commenced work shortly after incorporation, but its operations were not well conducted and the only result attained the first season was to prove that the cave-in or hole into which the farmer's cattle fell some years previously was a well defined circular pit and clearly a part of the original work.

The pit was opened to a depth of fifty five feet where the workmen encountered salt water and quit. This pit is claimed to be the air shaft which up to this time could not be located.

The work was then placed by the Oak Island Treasure Company, in the hands of a committee appointed by the Nova Scotian shareholders, who took charge of operations. This committee carried on the work with energy and discovered in the "Money Pit", a platform just above high water mark or about thirty feet from the surface. Below the platform the pit was open to about 108 feet, - left this way by the Halifax Company, but the cribbing was so badly twisted and out of alignment that a hoist could not be satisfactorily operated. A connection was therefore made near the bottom to a shaft that had been opened near by.

MONEY PIT DEEPEMED.

The "Money Pit" was cleaned out and deepened and at the depth of 111 feet and opening on the side was found two and a half feet wide, filled with beach stone and gravel through which sea water flowed with great force.

As the face of this tunnel was exposed the water increased very much in volume and finally overcame the pumps, filled the works to tide level and brought operations to a standstill. This opening without doubt was the tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit". The sides of this tunnel, so far as seen, were clean-cut and perpendicular, and the top was square across. A small quantity of sand and gravel was taken from the upper part of the tunnel and amongst this was discovered a chip of wood, a piece of bark, and a bird's bone, - strong evidence that the material in which these were found was originally on the surface and placed by man where found, as these articles could not be conveyed by water some eighty feet below tide level.

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OPERATIONS AT THE SHORE

Owing to the great volume and force of water it was decided that it would be less expensive to stop the flow than to pump, and accordingly the committee decided to bore near the shore with a view of intercepting the tunnel and plugging it in some manner.

Boring was done about fifty feet from high water marks at Smith's Cove. Five holes were drilled, each five inches in diameter, location and depths as shown on diagram. A quantity of dynamite was placed in each hole as drilled, the hole filled with water and the dynamite discharged. Fifty pounds was put in number one; seventy-five pounds in number two and about the same quantity in numbers four and five. Water was not struck in any of these holes and when the dynamite was discharged the water used as a primer was sent one hundred (or more) feet in the air.

It will be noted on the diagram that hole number three was drilled on the supposed line of the tunnel. Salt water and rocks were struck in this hole at eighty feet. The water rose to tide level, ebbed and flowed with the tide in this hole, number three, could not be filled with water. One hundred and sixty pounds of dynamite was set off in this hole and no water whatever came to the surface. The water, however, standing in the "Money Pit" and pit "B", (see diagram) boiled and foramed for a considerable time, proving conclusively a direct connection between the hole number three and the "Money Pit".

A conflict of opinion as to the best methods to pursue and lack of means prevented working longer at the shore.

DEEPER BORING WITH SURPRISING RESULTS

While the work above described was being conducted at the shore, boring operations were also carried on at the "Money Pit".

It may be well to here explain that up to this time the parties in charge of the work had no thought whatever of finding any treasure below 118 feet,- the depth of the deepest shaft sunk by any Company of searchers. It will be remembered that this 118-foot shaft was the one from which a small tunnel to the "Money Pit" had been driven previous to the collapse of the "Money Pit". (See P. 12.). It was

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debris, the loose or disturbed condition ^{of} the soil and the blue puddled clay that "coaxed" the workmen to continue drilling to a greater depth.

The soil of the Island is a hard blue clay to about one hundred and ten feet, below which is found a very hard brown marl. In none of the numerous pits sunk on the Island was blue clay found below 110 feet except in the "Money Pit" where it was found in a puddled condition by boring, all the way from 125 to 170 feet.

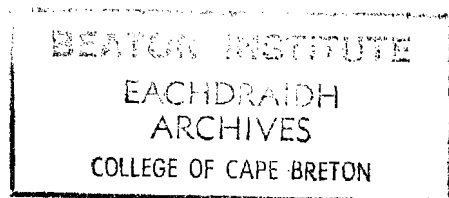
In addition to experienced drillers, three men well known in Nova Scotia, took part more or less, in the work. These men were T. P. Putman, a prosperous farmer and trader of Lower Onslow, N. S., William Chappell, lumberman and manufacturer, Amherst, N. S., and Capt. John W. Welling, Saint John, N.B. Mr. Putman acted as manager, while the Messrs. Chappell and Welling, had charge of the work at the Island.

Mr. Chappell, prepared a concise report of this drilling in the form of an affidavit, and a complete copy thereof follows:

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT MADE BY
WILLIAM CHAPPELL IN CONNECTION WITH
DRILLING DONE IN 1897

STATEMENT made by William Chappell, of drilling done in "Money Pit" at Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putman and John W. Welling, took part in addition to the said Chappell, and experienced drillers.

The pit had been opened down to 113 feet, the water level therein being 31 to 33 feet from surface, varying with the tides. Operations were conducted at the surface. The water was pumped out to about 100 feet and the holes were located from a platform placed at 90 feet from the surface. This was done so as to enable us to place the holes over as large an area as possible, and with the assurance that they were not too close together. The cribbing of the pit was so badly twisted that only a small portion of the bottom could be reached with a plumb line from the top. A 2 1/2" drill was used in a 3" pipe.



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Several holes (more than three) were bored, and this statement is a composite report of all holes drilled except in so far as is necessary to give a clear, succinct and easily understood history of the work. Most of the drilling was done in loose or soft and what appeared to be disturbed ground; blue clay was encountered between 130 and 151 feet, and also between 160 and 171 feet. In one hole we appeared to be in the channel in which the water was coming up and being pumped out at the rate of about 400 gallons per minute. It was the generally disturbed and loose conditions, and the blue clay, that induced the workmen to drill their first hole below 130 feet.

Wood was struck at 122 feet and at 126 feet and deeper as stated herein. Iron was encountered at 126 feet in one hole, and it stopped the pipe. The pipe proved to be on the edge of the iron, but efforts made to drive it past resulted in failure.

At 1 1/2" drill was put down past the obstruction and it went through the blue clay to 151 feet and struck what appeared to be soft stone. Cuttings of this stone when compared, looked just like cement, and as analytical chemists subsequently pronounced samples from this material to have the composition of cement, it is hereafter referred to as cement. Twenty inches down in this cement, we struck wood, a few chips from which were brought up. An auger was substituted for the drill and five inches of oak wood were bored through.

When the auger passed through the wood it dropped from one and one-half to two inches and rested upon a substance the character of which no person would attempt to state. After considerable twisting of the auger on the substance, it was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam. The drill was then again put down when we found we were apparently on soft metal that could be moved slightly thereby forming a crevice or space into which the drill, when in alignment, would drop and stick or wedge. This happened a number of times and it was often necessary to pry the drill loose. After working for two hours or more, we managed to get down four inches when the drill worked easier, but it would not go down under the ordinary method of drilling, (raising and dropping the rods) but by a continuous twisting and turning of the rods under constant

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pressure, we managed to get 18 or 20 inches deeper, a total of 24 inches of material bored through under the wood. The drill then struck a substance similar to that encountered immediately under the wood. No special effort was made to get through this.

In working down the twenty inches, the space made by the drill would fill at once under the tool as it was raised, and it would fill up nearly the whole twenty inches when the rods were raised that much. We worked over five hours in getting down the two feet, and the drill came up as sharp as when it went down.

The conclusion was that the first four inches consisted of metal in bars which were pushed aside by the drill enough to permit it to pass, and that the additional twenty inches consisted of coin or metal in small pieces that fell into the space left by the tool as it was drawn up, and also, that under these small pieces, there was more metal (not iron) in bars.

It was at once decided to secure this drill hole by piping below 126 feet and then to obtain a sample of the small metal pieces. To that end, a 1 1/2" pipe was lowered through the 3" pipe and forced past the iron obstruction at 126 feet. It was discovered, however, that this obstruction had turned the small pipe from its course and it struck hard ground, supposed to be the wall of the pit, instead of going down to the cement.

The 1 1/2" pipe was then withdrawn and the drill again lowered through the larger pipe, but it followed the hole made by the small pipe below 126 feet and the hole to the cement was thereby lost. When the 1 1/2" pipe was withdrawn it was found that in forcing it past the obstruction at 126 feet, a V shaped piece extending for about one-third of the circumference of the pipe at the lower end and up about three inches, had been cut out.

The three inch pipe was then reset and another hole drilled, and the pipe put down until it rested solidly upon the cement. At 153 feet we apparently touched wood and one side which extended down about four feet, the cement extending about three feet further to a depth of approximately 160 feet, with a total thickness of about seven feet from top of wood to bottom of cement.

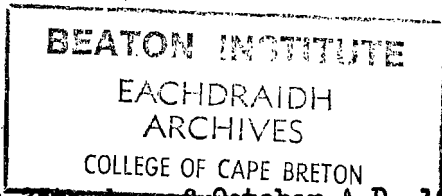
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We then bored into a quite firm, blue clay possessing the characteristics of puddled clay. This extended down to 171 feet where iron was struck. This iron was very solid and the metallic sound could be plainly heard at the surface. We drilled on it two hours or more, getting into it not more than one quarter inch. The drill was taken out, sharpened and tempered for iron and two more hours were spent in drilling and getting down another quarter inch. The drill showed no wear when withdrawn, it was given a few raps on stone which took the edge off. The clay and material at the bottom of the hole were brought up with a sand pump. A magnet was run through this material and it loaded up with fine iron cuttings thereby producing conclusive proof that it was iron we had been drilling on at 171 feet. No further attempt was made to go through this iron.

(Signed) William Chappell.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND S S



Be it remembered that on this 25th day of ~~October~~ September A.D. 1929

before me the subscriber personally came and appeared, William Chappell of Sydney, in the Province of Nova Scotia, who having been by me examined, made oath and said that the foregoing statement of drilling done in "Money Pit" on Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putnam, and John W. Welling, took part in addition to the said Chappell and experienced drillers, is true, and that the facts and matters of each and every particular contained in the foregoing statement is true.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

(Signed) C. Guy Black

Notarial Seal

A Notary Public in and for the Province of Nova Scotia, residing and practicing at Oxford, Province of Nova Scotia.

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SAMPLES SENT TO ANALYST

Mr. Chappell, in his affidavit, refers to cuttings of stone which were pronounced to be of cement composition by analytical chemists.

A number of samples of this stone were saved and two of them were forwarded to Messrs. A. Boake Roberts & Company, Ltd., Analytical Chemists, London, England, with request for analysis. No information whatever was given as to their source. We quote their reply:

"We have carefully analysed the two samples of stone received from you recently and have to report That we find them to be of the following compositions:-

		No. 1	No. 2
Lime	(CaO)	37.40%	37.18%
Carbonate	(-CO ₂)	33.20%	34.00%
Silica	(SiO ₂)	13.20%	13.92%
Iron & Alumina	(Fe or Al) 2 ⁰ 3	10.19%	10.13%
Moisture (at 120°C)		0.34%	0.29%
Magnesium etc.	(by diff ^{ee} --)	5.67%	4.48%
		100.00	100.00

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These stones are very soft and both of them have the Composition of cement."

On receipt of this reply the Messrs. Boake Roberts, were again written to and asked if in their opinion the stones were artificial or natural. Their reply was as follows:

"From the analysis it is impossible to state definitely but from the appearance and nature of the samples, we are of the opinion that it is a cement which has been worked by man."

Mr. Chappell says in his affidavit that no further attempt was made to drill through the iron struck at 171 feet. This was for the reason that it was the opinion of all that sufficient proof had been adduced of the existence of not only the treasure for which so much money had been expended, but also of a much greater quantity than the prospectors had in mind.

Confidence reigned supreme and the Company became practically a close corporation. "Insiders" advanced the necessary funds to carry on the work and those who possessed stock, would not part with it at any reasonable price.

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It was agreed that a pumping shaft put down deep enough to drain the "Money Pit" at 175 feet was a more certain plan of recovery than the attempt to choke the tunnel. This method of operation prevailed because it was the opinion of some that a second tunnel entering the pit below that already located was quite possible.

Early in October, 1897, work was commenced on another shaft and for more than two years the committee held fast to the plan laid down. They sank in that time no less than six shafts reaching depths ranging from 95 to 160 feet.

It will be remembered that the Halifax Company drove numerous tunnels in all directions in an attempt to locate the "pirate tunnel". No record of this work was available nor could any person be found who could furnish definite information with respect thereto. The result was these tunnels were the direct cause of the loss of four shafts and indirectly of a fifty. Three of these shafts passed down so near tunnels that the water broke through under the heavy pressure. Two shafts came directly over tunnels. In one of those, however, the tunnel was dry, evidently being choked somewhere in its course, and indirectly only did it cause the loss of the shaft. The shaft in which the dry tunnel was struck at 98 feet was sunk to 160 feet at which depth salt water broke into the shaft under very heavy pressure.

At this time, in order to relieve pressure, the water in the "Money Pit" was being kept down to seventy feet by pumps. Immediately the rush occurred in the 160-foot shaft, the water in the "Money Pit" began to fall and dropped fourteen feet in one hour, when it began to rise again, it being on a level in both "pit" and shaft. It took five hours to get back to the 70-foot mark.

The committee in order to do away with using so much fresh water, which was not very plentiful on the Island, had purchased two specially built double-acting, single-plunger pumps. One of these pumps was immediately set up in the 160-foot shaft, thirty feet from the surface. The pump was started and filled with water on the up-stroke, but the plunger rod (2 pieces timber 4" x 6" strapped and bolted together) suddenly broke on the down-stroke under a tremendous strain, the cribbing of the pit also crushing down several feet under

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the force. The pump was taken out and on examination it was found that the manufacturers had neglected to use a core in casting a piece of the pump, which in consequence of this over-sight, did not leave any discharge for the water on the down stroke. The water worked its way into the dry tunnel at ninety eight feet, and with the now weakened and collapsed cribbing, got in its work in a day or two and the shaft was lost.

EVIDENCE OF SECOND PIRATE TUNNEL

Immediately after it was decided that this shaft could not be saved a pump was set up near the shore and water pumped from the bay into the shaft. The idea was to fill the shaft above tide level and thereby force water out through the shore inlet of the tunnel and thus disclose the location of the inlet.

The muddy water from the pit soon appeared on the South side of the Island at about low water mark. None appeared in Smith's Cove.

This test was then applied to the "Money Pit" so that the water from the shore would come in. The muddy water was only a short time coming through to the pit.

Other similar tests were made, the result of which was conclusive evidence of this existence of an artificial water course on the south side of the Island as well as one from the pit to Smith's Cove. It was also found that the Southern inlet was more open than the Eastern, due possibly to work done at the latter point by searchers.

The committee eventually went to work once more at the "Money Pit". They began work enlarging the pit by sinking a shaft five feet by eight feet, close up to the original pit which was also five by eight feet, as reconstructed. This gave them a double wall of cribbing down the center division and enabled them to do all the hoisting in a direct line to the top which is impossible in the old pit.

In sinking this new part of the pit the workmen came to a mass of cribbing very largely standing on end and evidently the cribbing of the old Truro Company's pit, which had collapsed after being undermined by a tunnel from the 118-foot shaft. This timber extended down to between ninety-five and one hundred feet.

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Eventually the new portion of the pit was carried down on a level with the old part at which depth, 113 feet, the quantity of water was too great for the pumping capacity and the work was finally abandoned owing to lack of funds.

The bottom of the new part of the pit was mostly in good hard soil, and also a portion of the old, outside of a ring of gravel that circled through on the side. Water appeared to come up through the gravel as well as through the exposed inlet of the tunnel. The soil inside the gravel ring was clay and it could be handled without the aid of picks.

DISCOVERY OF PARCHMENT

By reference to Mr. Chappell's affidavit you will note that after twisting and working the auger on the substance struck under the oak wood at about 153 feet, it was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam.

He cleaned the auger himself, taking all mud and dirt therefrom. This dirt he panned out, gathering all cleanings including everything that floated on the water. He left the Island and met Messrs. W.H. McDonald, and F. L. Blair, both of Amherst, N.S., in Truro, N.S., where they examined the borings which Mr. Putnam had brought with him. These consisted very largely of small chips of wood, but amongst them was noticed a few shreds of something of a different texture.

Mr. Putnam went to Amherst a few days later and again the article of peculiar texture was noticed.

Dr. A. E. Porter, who was then practicing medicine in Amherst examined the borings under a glass, in the presence of a dozen or more men. The strange fibre attracted his attention. Under the glass it appeared in the form of a compact ball about the size of a grain of rice with fuzz or short hair on the surface. Dr. Porter examined the ball very closely and after working on it for some minutes he got it flattened out, when it had every appearance of being a small piece of parchment on which was written in black ink, characters that appeared to represent parts of the letters "ui", "vi" or "wi". It was afterwards sent to

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experts and by them pronounced to be parchment.

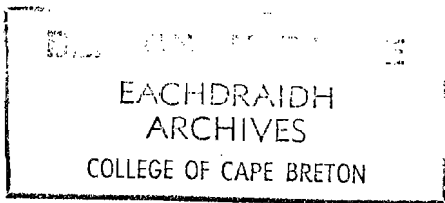
These borings were never out of Mr. Putnam's possession, except for examination in his presence, until after the parchment was flattened out by Dr. Porter, who at the time had no interest whatever in Oak Island. Dr. Porter was one of a few to whom stock was sold after the discovery of this parchment.

The parchment is now in possession of F. L. Blair, Brookline, Massachusetts.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT MADE BY
DR. A. E. PORTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE
DISCOVERY OF THE BIT OF PARCHMENT.

CANADA

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



IN THE MATTER OF an examination held on certain material at the Court House at Amherst on the 6th day of September 1897.

To Wit:

I, Andrew E. Porter, of the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Physician, do solemnly declare that:

1. On the 6th day of September 1897, I was in Amherst, Nova Scotia, and was in attendance at a room in the Court House on that date with a number of men, including Mr. T. P. Putnam and Richard Lowerson, when there was examined certain materials which were stated to have been brought up by a drill at what was known as the Money Pit at Oak Island, Nova Scotia.

2. The materials in question consisted of small chips or particles of wood and amongst them was a piece of material which upon examin-

Ms 1440

ation, I verily believed and still believe to have been parchment. I examined the said particle under a magnifying glass and it was photographed and enlarged and now produced and shown to me and marked "Exhibit A", hereto is what I verily believe to be a print of the photograph of the said particle of parchment.

3. I was informed by the said T. P. Putnam, that this particle had been taken by him from a common wood auger after its extraction from depth of 153 feet in a drilled hole in the said pit.

4. The said T. P. Putnam, stated that he had been present and had assisted with the boring with the auger at the place and time and that after the auger had reached the depth it struck some substance through which it would not proceed and could not be forced further, but the nature of which could not be ascertained. Mr. Purnam then stated that after the auger was cleaned and the materials washed off into a pan of water and dried in the sun, the fragments of wood and other materials which were before the meeting, were everything that remained of the materials which floated in the water and that the material which was produced to the meeting had never been out of his possession or been tampered with by anybody at all.

5. I personally examined the above mentioned scrap of parchment and state positively that under a magnifying glass at that time it had every appearance of being parchment and that certain marks on it had the distinct appearance of being written with ink and part of some word, but the letters were not sufficiently clear to enable me to decide what the letters were or the language.

And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "the Canada Evidence Act."

Declared before me at the City of
Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta,
this 11th day of January, A.D. 1926

(Signed) A. E. Porter

(Signed) Henry J. Carr

Notary Public and a Commissioner for
Oaths in and for the Province of Alberta.

Notarial Seal

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CORROBORATIVE LETTERS

A question that may be asked is, where is the wood and metal in pieces bored through between 98 and 105 feet, by the company operating in 1894? This, under the circumstances, cannot be definitely answered.

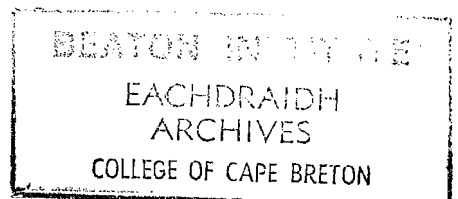
It is, however, the opinion of those best informed, that the wood and metal in pieces will be found between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and thirty feet.

It will be remembered that the "Money Pit" fell in from being undermined by the small tunnel driven from the 118-foot shaft. We quote the following letters in this connection:

A letter written in June 1895, by S. C. Fraser, of Briggs Corner, N. B., addressed to A. S. Lowden, Concord, Mass., who acted as Manager for the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1895. Mr. Fraser worked four years on the Island assisting in various attempts to unearth the treasure. He worked one year as a foreman for the Halifax Company. His opinion is, therefore, entitled to consideration. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that his letter was written two years previously to the boring under the management of the committee which proved the existence of metal and cement buried at 153 feet.

We quote:-

"The Halifax Company's work was at a base of 110 feet except two circling tunnels which were on a higher level As we entered the old place of the treasure (by a tunnel) we cut off the mouth of the "pirate tunnel". As we opened it the water hurled around rocks about twice the size of a man's head with many smaller, and drove the men back for protection. The tunnel was found near the top of our tunnel. I brought Mr. Hill, the engineer, down and he put his arm into the hole of the tunnel up to his shoulder. Nothing could be more particular than our search in the old place of the treasure. As to the falling of the treasure before ever the Halifax Company had anything to do with it. A man by the name of George Mitchell, who was then in charge. He finished the sinking of the 118-foot shaft through which the water was taken away, which the "Money Pit" was to be cleaned out to the treasure. I was then living in Truro, N. S., and was sent down to clean



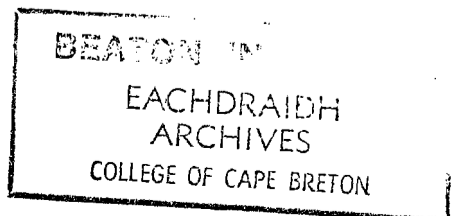
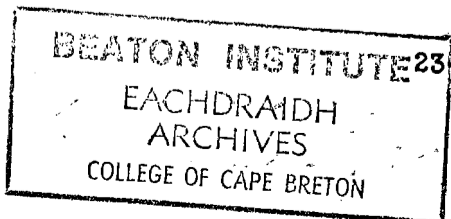
out the "Money Pit", but before going into it I examined the 118-foot pit and tunnel which was then nearly finished. At the end of the tunnel I saw every sign of the cataclysm that was about to take place and refused to go into the "Money Pit".When the pit fell down I was there.There went down 10,000 feet of lumber, board measure (the cribbing of the pit). Could these plank stop on their way down and turn into an 18-foot tunnel 3' x 4'? Would or could casks of treasure having 10,000 feet of lumber and hundreds of tons of earth behind them turn into a 3' x 4' tunnel? And if they could perform the impossible, would an 18-foot tunnel, 3' x 4', hold all this material?The pirate sank the shaft at first 155 feet deep, put part of the treasure there with a branch drain into it. Then working upon the old superstition that treasure runs away from seekers, he put another portion at 100 feet with a drain into it."

(It is inferred that Mr. Fraser intended to convey that a space was left open below the upper treasure.)

"Now to dig into the "Money Pit" means to pull all those plank out by the teeth, and to believe that they turned into that little 18-foot tunnel would require as much faith from me as that Halley's comet went through it. Sink your pumping shaft deep, - deep enough to drain the "Money Pit" at 155 feet, and you have the treasure."

It is a remarkable fact that Mr. Fraser should predict that the "Money Pit" was originally sunk to 155 feet, that something was buried there, and that a tunnel entered the pit at that depth. This prediction was verified two years after the letter was written. We also quote from another letter written by Mr. Fraser to Mr. Lowden, dated June 19, 1895:-

"Perhaps I should speak of appearances in the 118-foot pit tunnel when I went to examine it in view of my own safety when ordered by Mitchell to clean out the "Money Pit". The pirate must have placed strong beams across the shaft and thrown in say ten or fifteen feet of earth on these under the upper treasure, because when I went into the tunnel from the 118- foot pit they were in disturbed earth. They had some



caving-in from above them, worked blue clay coming away from some smooth under-surface. The clay thus settling assumed the shape of the end of a large boiler round and still becoming a larger circle. That which warned the men in the tunnel and so saved their lives was the breaking of the timbers all around them."

As confirming Mr. Fraser's statements we quote from a letter written by Daniel MacDonald, Pictou, N. S., dated May 11th, 1898:-

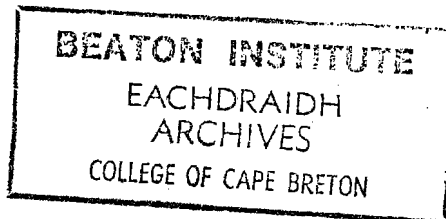
"There was a man here from Stellarton,- Mr. Robinson, who worked for the Halifax Company. He told us that at 108 feet in the "Money Pit" he tunneled in to one side and after going in a few feet he felt the earth under his feet give a little; he told the men to give him a pick and he drove it down and through, and the water came up. He took a crow-bar and put it down and his arm to the shoulder with it and he says that he could swing the bar around in a pit, but the water was coming so fast he had to give it up."

We also give the following quotation as confirmatory evidence. Letter from T. MacLeod, Mulgrave, N.S., dated July 27th, 1897:-

"Enclosed \$5.00 for share in Oak Island Treasure Company for Daniel Barry, Sen. He and I have one between us, but he has so much confidence in it that he wants another share. He worked at Oak Island in 1849-51 and sank \$1200., there.He thinks that the sea mouth of the tunnel can't be far beyond low water. They carried some earth into the sea and roiled the water and shortly after, the water/ⁱⁿthe "Money Pit" got dirty. His theory is that the mouth of the tunnel is not 100 feet from low water. He is a shrewd, level headed old man of 80, and I have no doubt his observations are pretty accurate in the main. He was there also when they made the borings in the "Money Pit", when the three links were taken pp and Pitbaldo put something in his pocket."

From letter written by Frank Burrows to T.P. Putnam, dated November 26th, 1899:-

"I met Mr. J. W. Publicover on the train. He claims to be the



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last man coming out of the 118-foot pit and tunnel. ... Mr. Publicover tells me that the water was being kept out by three gins when this pit caved. He got a head or bottom of a small barrel or some wooden dish about the size of the end of a nail keg and it had been painted yellow. This came through the tunnel to the 118-foot pit."

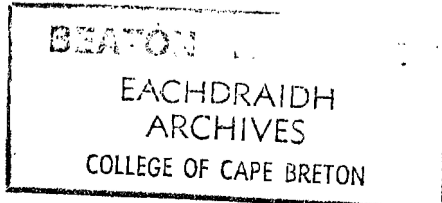
A. S. Lowden, who had charge of the work in 1895, writes:-

"I spent sometime last summer and fall (1895) on the Island. While there I lodged at the house of a Mr. McGinnis, who is a grandson of one of the discoverers. From him and Robert Creelman, who got his knowledge from Vaughan, -another one of the finders, I learned many more of the particulars of the discovery of and early search for the treasure. Mr. Creelman is a well preserved vigorous man of about 80 years, with strong religious tendencies of the old Presbyterian school. He is not a man to make any kind of a statement to deceive. Having been connected with nearly every Company from 1849 until now, he is thoroughly acquainted with the work described and endorses the story as published in the Oak Island Treasure Company's pamphlet in nearly every particular. Among the other signs which led the discoverers to dig was the remains of a hoisting block, such as is used on sailing crafts, hanging to the limb of a tree, which over-hung the "Money Pit". Some accounts say this had fallen into a depression in the earth. It is not strange that at this late date there should be some variations in the story, but considering the nature of a hoisting fall, it is not improbable that both are correct. One of the 10-foot marks found in the "Money Pit", was a layer of putty. Other layers were charcoal. These articles are usually found among the stores of sea going crafts."

"The brown fibrous plant resembling the husk of a cocoanut spoken of in the pamphlet, that was found in such large quantities on the shore and everywhere that the pirate's work was found, is called by some "Manilla Grass". It certainly is not the fibre used in manufacturing manilla rope, which is the fibre of a tree like the banana.

S.C. Fraser writes:- "The pamphlet says East India Grass.

'It is not, but is cocoanut fibre, nearly as well preserved
'as when I took off the cocoanut when examining and comparing
'them.



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Considerable of this was found under the sand on the beach at Smith's Cove, last summer and carried away by visitors. Although it had been there perhaps 200 years, it is in a good state of preservation."

Other letters could be quoted but the foregoing may be considered sufficient.

COCOANUT FIBER

Attention is drawn to several references made in the story to a brown fibrous substance, or cocoanut fiber.

On page five, it is recorded that a small quantity of brown fibrous substance closely resembling the husk of a cocoanut, was brought up on an auger when drilling in the money pit.

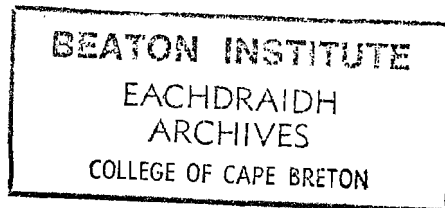
On page six, it is told that in working on the shore, "the workmen came to a covering or layer of brown fibrous plant the fibre very much resembling the husk of the cocoanut."

On page 25, Mr. Lowden, refers to it and says: "It is not the fibre used in the manufacture of Manilla rope." He also quotes S. C. Fraser, who stated definitely that it was cocoanut husk, or fibre. It will be noted that Mr. Lowden mentions the fact that considerable of this fiber was found in good state of preservation under the sand on the beach at Smith's Cove last summer (1895) and carried away by visitors.

In one of S. C. Fraser's letters, he writes: "There was tons and tons of that cocoanut fiber on the works at the shore, and in the pit."

During the summer of 1916, a small quantity of this fiber was dug up at Smith's Cove, under instructions and in the presence of the writer, F. L. Blair. This was preserved, and a specimen thereof was mailed to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., with request that they identify it. We quote their reply:-

"The specimen of fiber submitted is undoubtedly from the fibrous husks surrounding a cocoanut. This fiber is especially resistant to the effect of sea water and under the conditions under which it was found might have been there for several hundred years."



No such fiber, material or substance is found elsewhere in Eastern Canada, either on its shores, inland or on its islands except on Oak Island, and there only in two spots; Smith's Cove and the Money Pit.

Was it put there by nature or man? If by nature, why not elsewhere in the vicinity or surrounding country? How did it get down 100 or more feet in the money pit and not in the surrounding soil at the same, or any other depth so far as known?

If placed there by man, from whence did it come, and when, and for what purpose was it used in the locations where found?

The answer will be found at 155 feet in the money pit.

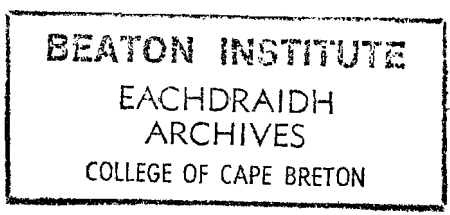
IN CONCLUSION

The foregoing statement of discovery and work done at Oak Island is authentic. In the pamphlet published by the Oak Island Treasure Company, there is an affidavit made by Adams A. Tupper, in which he states that he worked on the Island during the summers of 1850-51 and 1863, that he was familiar with the various reports concerning the work done there before his own personal knowledge, and that the statements made in the pamphlet, ^{to} the best of his knowledge, were absolutely true.

There is included in this Booklet, a copy of an affidavit made by F. L. Blair, in February, 1926, which corroborates the affidavit made by Dr. A. E. Porter, and also verifies other parts of the story.

The later Judge DesBrisay, in his History of Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, writes of Oak Island and verifies the history we have given up to 1850, by stating that what was not within his personal knowledge, had been given to him by reliable persons who had personal knowledge of the facts.

The experience of the Oak Island Treasure Company and the Nova Scotia Committee, is recent and the statements with regard to their work can be verified by various parties who took part on the work.



It, therefore, has been proved that a large amount of work was done on Oak Island before the memory of any of the original settlers of that section of the country.

In considering why all this original work was done the whole of it must be taken collectively, the "Money Pit", (which includes all revealed by boring therein) the tunnels and the work at the shore.

A pit was sunk to at least 170 feet and systematically refilled.

The pit was protected by water from the ocean conveyed thereto by artificial tunnels, one entering the pit with its top at 111 feet, the other entering at about 150 feet.

The tunnels run from the pit to the shore (probably on a level/ there entering the bottom of pits sunk near low water.

The shore pits and the tunnels throughout their course, are filled with beach stone (plentiful supply of which was available on the shore) through which the water freely flows. Some means of stopping this flow of water was probably provided, possibly in the "Air Shaft".

Provision was made to prevent the shore pits from filling ~~in~~ with sand in the form of a heavy layer of eel grass over rocks and a tropical plant or cocoanut husks over the grass, and beach sand over all.

The opinion is that the work was done under a plan similar to that shown in the accompanying drawing which is self explanatory.

This work was done for a purpose and was evidently laid out and supervised by some person or persons with no small amount of engineering skill, and the methods employed were eminently successful. Each pit put down has increased the difficulty in sinking others.

Can there be any conclusion except that this work all meant the concealment and protection of something of great value?

Failure to recover the treasure by the various companies that have worked on Oak Island, was due:-

- First:- Lack of knowledge of conditions.
- Second:- Lack of engineering skill.
- Third:- Lack of funds, which carried with it, lack of proper appliances.

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The difficulties to overcome are now well known, and with modern appliances and engineering skill, the bottom of the "Money Pit" can easily be reached and everything therein recovered.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT

MADE BY F. L. BLAIR FOR RECORDING

PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH PAMPHLETS OUT OF PRINT

//-----

THE FOREGOING STORY IS A COPY OF PAMPHLET

"EXHIBIT B" REFERRED TO IN THIS AFFIDAVIT EXCEPT

THAT WILLIAM CHAPPELL'S AFFIDAVIT HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED

FOR THE ACCOUNT OF 1897 DRILLING, IT BEING UNQUESTIONABLE.

THE "DISCOVERY OF PARCHMENT" STORY IS VERIFIED BY

THE ADDITION OF DR. A. E. PORTER'S AFFIDAVIT.

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED,

REMARKS UNDER THE HEADING "COCOANUT FIBER"

IN THE MATTER of a search for Buried Treasure at Oak Island, County of Lunenburg, Province of Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada.

I, Frederick L. Blair of the Town of Brookline, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly of the Town of Amherst, Province of Nova Scotia, Accountant, do solemnly declare that:

1. I have been acquainted with the history of the search for treasure buried on Oak Island, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, for thirty-two years, I have been connected with or have participated in some manner with every attempt made on the said island for the recovery of the treasure.
2. I was in a position to learn of all vital facts that developed

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in connection with the work done on the island within the said period and I believe I am aware of all of the important information which was obtained as a result of the said work.

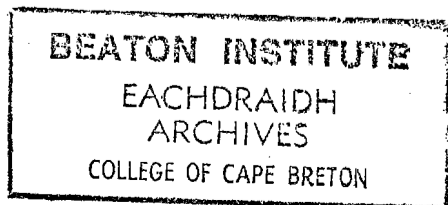
3. I have from time to time during the said period of thirty-two years, interviewed and conversed with many persons who possessed knowledge of the work done at various times prior to the year 1893, for the recovery of the treasure, amongst such persons being, Adams A. Tupper, Jefferson W. MacDonald, Amherst, N.S., Mrs. Henry Sellers, Chester Basin, N.S., John McGinnis and Arthur McGinnis, Oak Island, N.S., and George Vaughan, Western Shore, N.S., the last three being direct descendents of two of the discoverers of the original work.

4. After due investigation most carefully and thoroughly made, I have every reason to believe and do believe that the story set forth in the pamphlet herewith, published by the Oak Island Treasure Company, and marked "Exhibit A", is correct in all essential facts and is a true history of the work done on the said island previous to the year 1893, as stated by Adams A. Tupper, in his affidavit printed in the same pamphlet.

5. The story of the work done on the said island subsequent to the year 1893, as related on pages ten to sixteen in the pamphlet herewith, marked "Exhibit B", was prepared for me from knowledge and belief.

6. Referring more particularly to the story of the piece of parchment as related on pages sixteen and seventeen in pamphlet "B", and to the affidavit of Dr. A. E. Porter, herewith, and Marked "Exhibit C", I was present at the meeting mentioned by Dr. Porter, and there identified amongst the chips of wood, the same substance of fibre I had noticed a few days previously in Truro, N. S., as told in the pamphlet. I watched Doctor Porter, while he examined the material under his glass and saw him work with it until he got it flattened out.

7. I was well acquainted with T. Perley Putnam, who acted as Manager of the work done at the island for recovery of the treasure, between the years 1896 and 1900. He was a man in whose honesty and



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integrity I would place the greatest reliance. I heard him repeatedly tell his experience with the auger and drill in the drill hole in which wood was first struck at 154 feet. His story is retold in the pamphlet both as to boring through wood and what occurred thereafter, also with respect to cleaning the auger and washing the dirt therefrom, as related by Dr. Porter.

8. The piece of parchment is attached hereto, and marked "Exhibit D". I firmly believe it came out of a drill hole in the so called "Money Pit" at Oak Island, as described in the pamphlet and by Dr. Porter in his affidavit.

9. As a matter of record, I further declare that from Jefferson W. McDonald, mentioned in paragraph three, I first heard the story of Oak Island. He worked there some time during the eighteen sixties and helped to dig the 118-foot pit and was present when the "Money Pit" collapsed. Mr. McDonald was a firm believer in the existence of a treasure at Oak Island, his opinion being based on information obtained from men who had taken part in previous work as well as on his own experience. From George Vaughan, I learned that the names of the original discoverers were, Jack Smith, Daniel McGinnis and Anthony Vaughan, the latter being George Vaughan's grandfather. George Vaughan told me how his grandfather had related to him while he (George) was a boy, their experience in opening the pit. He stated it was circular in form, twelve feet in diameter, the digging being easy inside and very hard outside, it, therefore, being easy to determine when the wall of the pit was reached. Mr. Vaughan stated that his father, David Vaughan, also worked at the pit and was present when the original boring was done. I took notes of Mr. Vaughan's remarks and these notes are still in my possession. Mrs. Sellers who lived on the island in her early years, informed me that she was driving the oxen when they dropped into the so called "cave-in" pit, as related on page six of the pamphlet "B".

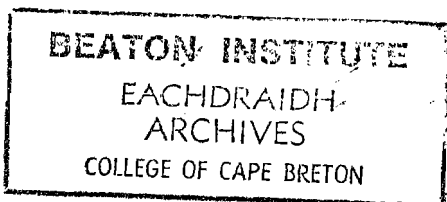
(Signed) Frederick L. Blair

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this first day of

February 1926.

(Signed) Edward F. Allen,
Notary Public

My commission expires June 16, 1927 Notarial Seal



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THE SOURCE OF TREASURE

The question is often asked: "Where did all this treasure come from that is said to be buried at Oak Island?"

We cannot tell where it came from, but if any person will take the trouble to study the history of America, particularly the history of Mexico, Peru and Brazil, having in mind the question of the amount of gold, silver, jewels, and precious stones that was produced by these countries during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, that person will readily conclude that the production of treasure in those times ran into billions.

Most of this treasure was exported to Spain.

"The coming and going of the annual fleets was a matter of the utmost solicitude to the Crown, to shippers and to consignees. Many a treasure laden craft either foundered at sea or fell a prey to buccaneers, and the safe arrival of a convoy was heralded with every manifestation of joy, even royalty itself not deeming it out of place to announce such an event".

The Atlantic Ocean was the hunting ground of thousands of pirates. Plundering Spanish galleons and merchant ships were the game.

The present Banking system between the Banks of the different countries as now in use and paper money were practically if not altogether unknown. Gold, Silver and all other valuables were transferred across the ocean and delivered to the owners in bulk. This was the system of exchange as well as of delivery.

Prescott, in his History of Peru, speaks of the division by Pizarro, of one accumulation of gold amounting to fifteen and one-half million dollars, and silver estimated at fifty-one thousand six hundred and ten marks.

Brazil and other countries of South America, have also always been famous for their great mineral wealth.

Untold millions were shipped to Europe from Mexico, Peru and Brazil, during the times in question, and the temptation to buccaneers and pirates to roam the high seas in pursuit of treasure, as well as the reward, was so great that for a time forcible plundering was the chief occupation of many of the seamen of the day.

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The estranged condition of the nations and the constant wars of the time made the line very thin between privateering and piracy, and the most flimsy excuse, if any were necessary, was considered sufficient to justify attack and plunder.

We can only refer the reader to the early history of the countries mentioned for fuller information on this subject.

And where would the buccaneer go with his booty? Not back to the port where it was shipped; certainly not to the consignees or owners. Leaving the usual Southern track or sea route between Central American and Europe, after securing a prize he could fill away and make a course northward to Nova Scotia, - a peninsula well out in the Atlantic, a convenient and secluded place, and there at his leisure he could bury his treasure unmolested.

Is it unreasonable to say that Oak Island was chosen by one or more of these pirates?

It may be that the "Money Pit" was dug to its deepest depth and partially filled from time to time as treasure was deposited, then finally closed and connected with the ocean.

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