

Another vein was slightly explored a short distance from this opening, but when the funds of the company became exhausted by very costly errors in conducting their operations, the owners became discouraged and suspended the whole concern.

At the time of the visit above alluded to I discovered sulphuret of cobalt among the ores, but, although this is a *very* valuable ore, the quantity was insufficient to justify the erection of expensive works on the spot, for preparing the cobalt or its oxides for sale, as was done.

It is more than probable that at some future day this property will fall into the hands of parties having the amount of capital, skill and courage required for conducting mining of this kind. There are always risks in mining, and whilst it is not certain that this will prove a valuable mine, the indications are highly favorable.

Another mine has been opened at Mineral Hill, about seven miles south-west of Finksburg, in the same range. It has been penetrated to a considerable depth, as I am informed, with very favorable prospects, but I have not been able to investigate it in person.

Cobalt ore has been found at Mineral Hill in small quantity.

Native gold was also found in the outcrop, but in unimportant amount.

The veins were opened, and some work done about two miles south-west of Mineral Hill.

Three miles further south-westward brings us to the Springfield mine, situated one mile and a half north-east of Sykesville, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. There are two veins at Springfield, which are worked successfully.

The main shaft has been carried down into the large vein to a distance of seven hundred feet, with a much better show of ore at the greatest depth than nearer the surface, where there was little copper, but a considerable thickness of magnetic oxide of iron. In fact, this mine was originally worked for iron, but as it progressed in depth, the proportion of copper continued to increase, so that, for several years, it has been worked as a copper mine, and has turned out better than any other in the State.

The ore consists of pyritous copper, which, when pure, contains usually about thirty-three per cent. of copper, but owing to the mixture of veinstone or gangue, the proportion of metal is about thirteen per cent. The ore sells for about fifty dollars per ton to the copper smelting works in Baltimore.

The last report of the company gives the following summary of the yield of the mine for each of four years, ending on the 30th April, viz :

1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.
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475 tons.	684 tons.	738 tons.	1,728 tons.