

A RICH HERITAGE.

Canadians have been tardy in recognizing their birthright, the richest mineral deposits in the world. Gold, the most precious of metals, is generously distributed throughout the Dominion. It exists in the extreme south, and has been found in the far north; bullion has been produced for years in Nova Scotia on the Atlantic seaboard. For years stamp mills have been pounding away at auriferous quartz in Nova Scotia. Fifty years ago the alluvial deposits of the St. Maurice river beds in Quebec were being worked, and even now placer mining is not unknown in the



BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING SCENE.

foot-hills of the Megantic mountains. Twenty-five years ago all the world knew of the gold-fields of Hastings county, and but for the lack of a proper process to extract the gold, mines might have been in operation during the last two decades. The Lake of the Woods was prospected fifteen years ago, but a number of failures discouraged capital, and interest flagged. But the gold was there, as events now show. Thousands of dollars of dust were taken out of the sands of the Saskatchewan in the early sixties. During the same period the banks of the Fraser and other British Columbia rivers were thronged with red-shirted miners delving for nuggets. On the bleak confines of Alaska, almost within the Arctic circle, adventurous men have been exploring for the past few years, and many have returned with bags of gold to recompense them for their efforts.

But gold is not the only metal found in profusion. Platinum, a metal of greater commercial value than gold, has been discovered in gravel-beds along the north shore of Lake Huron, in the Sudbury District, and in parts of Northern Quebec. Coal is mined in Nova Scotia and the North-West Territories, although

the latter does not possess as great a value as fuel as the Nova Scotia product. British Columbia has coal-beds of proved immensity. Of copper and iron we have no mean supply, while the nickel mines of Sudbury control the markets of the world. Western Ontario has great natural tanks filled with gas and oil. In the east are found deposits of graphite, quite as extensive and of a finer quality than any others known save that of Ceylon, while corundum, a discovery of recent date, promises to be equally valuable.

ONTARIO MINING.

In the Legislature, dealing with the subject of mining development, Hon. Mr. Gibson, Commissioner of Crown Lands, said: "In 1893 the Crown disposed of 798 locations, having a total area of 68,440 acres, and there were leased 506 locations with an area of 48,911 acres. The revenue from these sales was \$40,468.87: from leases on account of the first year's rent, \$48,063.63, and from the rental of leases prior to 1893, \$9,429.62, or a total of \$97,962.12. For seven years, 1892-98, the number of locations sold had been 1,171, with an area of 86,618 acres, and the number leased has been 1,908, with an area of 196,453 acres, being in all 3,079 locations with an area of 278,071 acres. The revenue from sales during the seven years has been \$182,306.87, and from the first year's rent, adding the rent subsequent to the first year of the lease, \$31,111.

"The revenue from mining lands sold and leased has been \$395,461.56, which together with miners' licences, fees, etc., collected in Michipocoton mining division in 1897-98 \$3,244.50, made an aggregate for the seven years of \$401,706. Under the Act of 1891 the price of mining lands ranged from \$2 to \$4 per acre, and by the Act of 1892 the maximum price was reduced to \$3.50. In 1894, owing to the business depression of that time, the price was further reduced to a range of \$1.50 to \$3.00. The present buoyancy of trade and business with an accompanying activity in mining enterprise, appears to justify a small increase. Prices and rentals are graduated according to distance of land from railways, and the situation as to surveyed and unsurveyed territory. The discovery and development in the older parts of the Province within the last three or four years, and the notably proven occurrences of gold ore in large quantities, justify the course taken in the bill of abandoning the distinction of different prices and rentals for mineral lands in the older and newer portions of the Province. The production of gold bullion in the Province during the year 1893 was 16,075 oz., worth \$271,906.48, not including the output of one mine, for which the returns have not yet been received. Compared with 1897 by weight, 4,663 ounces, and by value, \$81,662.48 more than in that year. Extensive development work was carried on in various parts of the Province last year, and with the mills now in course of erection, it is hoped that a large increase in production will be shown this year."

The copper mines in New Ontario are beginning to attract attention, some Montreal capitalists having lately acquired an interest in two of them. The ore from which appears to be identical with that of the famous South Shore mines, Calumet and Hecla, Osceola and Quincey. These three American mines have already paid dividends amounting to over \$60,000,000.

The machinery for the Slocan Ore Purchasing Company's sampler has been ordered from the Jencks Machine Company, of Sherbrooke, Quebec. It is expected that the sampler will be ready for business by May 20th. The manager of the Company says that he has an option on the purchase of sufficient ore to keep the sampler going for one month.