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ONTARIO'S NEW PREMIER

The choosing of Hon. W. H. Hearst to be Premier of Ontario, is a recognition of the ability of the man whom we have been fortunate during the past few years in having in charge of the Department of Lands and Mines of Ontario. The new Premier is keenly interested in the development of Northern Ontario and to a greater extent than most of his predecessors he has an intimate knowledge of conditions in those parts of the Province which are most in need of exploration and development.

The agricultural and mining possibilities of Northern Ontario are beginning to be appreciated, but as yet we cannot claim that we have accurate knowledge concerning a very large part of this magnificent Province, which stretches from the Great Lakes to James Bay. The fringe along the Great Lakes and more particularly the comparatively small area lying immediately north of Lakes Erie and Ontario has long been settled. But the greater part of Ontario is an undeveloped country.

Manifestly it is one of the most important duties of the Provincial Government to determine the resources of this vast territory and direct attention to them. Much was accomplished by the Whitney Government in this regard and good progress is being made. The new Premier is unusually well qualified by knowledge of the conditions and by natural ability to so shape the Government's policy that renewed vigor will be given to the development of New Ontario.

THE NICKEL INDUSTRY

The production of nickel and copper ore in the Sudbury district has fallen off greatly since the war began. The Mond Nickel company, an English company which refines its matte in Wales, has continued producing at a normal rate, but the Canadian Copper company, a subsidiary of the International Nickel company, has closed down several mines and confined production chiefly to the rich ore deposit at Creighton. This policy of decreasing production and stopping development work has necessitated the discharge of many employees.

At first thought it seems strange that a company producing nickel should be so crippled in time of war. Obviously a great demand for nickel by the countries at war and by neutrals is to be expected, for nickel-steel, an alloy containing 2.5 to 3.5 per cent. nickel, is for many war purposes unrivalled. It is, of course, probable that Germany in planning for war laid in large stocks of nickel-steel and would have continued to increase her stocks if the British fleet had not made it impossible. Nickel has been declared by Great Britain and by France contraband of war and the enemy's supply at once cut off