

The Canadian Miner.

ISSUED ONCE A WEEK

AND

Devoted to the interests of Miners, and all kinds of Mining; to the popularizing of Mining as a great National Industry; and to the protection of investors in Mining Companies.

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MR. LAURIER SEES THE POINT.

It is hopeful for a country when its responsible head has a true appreciation of the most pressing needs of that country. The discussions that hang around "Free Trade" and "Protection" are comparatively insignificant when we get to bottom facts, not of theory but of the actual circumstances of the Dominion. It is gratifying to find that Mr. Laurier realizes our chief needs and our great opportunity. Asked by a correspondent of the *London Mail* "what interests the Dominion and its people more than anything else at the present moment?" his answer was:

"Immigration. We want more people. Canada is a rich and fertile country, with exceptional advantages. Her credit stands higher than the credit of any other Imperial colony. The masses of our people are industrious, and her producing power is steadily on the increase. But even with manifold advantages we have lacked a magnet—a "boom," which would send people hither as they were sent to Australia or South Africa. And now I think we have found that magnet. The magnet I refer to is gold. It is the most powerful factor in immigration. It brings farmers as well as miners, artisans and professors; and one has only to travel through the North-West to feel that the future settlement of that part of Canada is assured. Towns and villages are springing up in a night, and there is plenty of good land and to spare."

This is wholesomely refreshing. We can only hope that the less enlightened, permanently unacute, discernment of some of our brilliant premier's colleagues will not hinder the practical measures that would naturally, if unhampered, be Mr. Laurier's policy. We have suffered enough in the past from narrow views (however honestly they may have been held) both under Liberal and Liberal Conservative rule. We have still the echoes of what some people consider a noble, but which after all seems an ignoble strife, ringing in our ears. In the new mineral development peace and good

will ought to reign; for, at least in regard to our precious metals, the element of competition, of making our man suffer that another may gain is removed.

With the eyes of the world more and more fixed upon Canada, and a tide of capital and immigration more and more pouring in upon us, a firm hand and a firm enlightened policy, equal in hopefulness and boldness to the occasion that has arisen and will be more important as time rolls by, will be appreciated and supported by the people at large. It only wants courage to ignore the selfishness of cities that want to absorb everything, of capitalists who think a dollar is worth more than a man, and of labor demagogues who are jealous of the immigration of the able-bodied and skilled men needed to develop this country. Our cities are not always the best seats of manufacture, and the people who work in factories have generally a happier and more wholesome life when these factories are scattered through our towns wherever natural facilities are present as economic factors. As to labor, whatever be the cause of the modern tendency to flock into cities, the tendency is to be regretted. Half and more of the grievances of labor are due to it. A clear-out to new centres of new industries, and to the opportunities in farming, artisan employment and trade which these new centres will afford, is something greatly to be desired, even if city property holders should have to let the value of their property remain stationary or recede until the natural development of the country makes the cities increasing commercial—not manufacturing—centres. We can safely, in the interests of the country, stand smelters and furnaces and other lines of manufacture which require cheap water-freights in abundance; but with the cheap water powers of Muskoka and a hundred other accessible districts going to waste, there are many industries that—from a national point of view—our bigger cities could do without.

We may have to look to Washington, but it will mainly be for the sake of countermining hostile legislation. We have enough in ourselves to make a market for nineteen-twentieths of our agricultural productions, and the rest should go not to a country which produces the same things in abundance and exports the surplus, but to the crowded parts of the world where that surplus is needed, or to countries unable to produce our products. We can do the middleman function for ourselves.

A vigorous mining policy, a good railway and brilliant waterway policy are the supreme material needs of Canada to-day. Immigration will accompany them from their inception and, as their outcome, in the early future, flow in a mighty stream.

THEY say that in some parts of the north and north-west of Ontario the snow covering this winter is very light, and ledges lie exposed. At any rate, notwithstanding the presence of winter, the number of prospectors' applications for locations filed at the Crown Lands Department in January was in the hundreds and there is no abatement yet in the demand for claims.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THERE will be a rush of thousands to the north and especially to the north-west of Ontario this spring. But our advice to would-be prospectors is: Don't go if you have not a good deal of pluck, a little money and an outfit. And if you go, have a companion.

IN our School of Practical Science, and in our mining schools, many are training themselves for practical work in the gold fields next summer. And besides there are others fitting themselves for it under private tuition. It is well that is so. A little education in these matters is very useful; it will smoothe the way of the prospector and actual miner.

WE have doubts that the gold mining stock companies that sell unassessable stock at so many cents on the dollar, instead of selling at par, whether in ten cent or dollar shares, will commend themselves to the quieter European investors. At any rate these investors must become acquainted with the system before prejudice in favor of the old style is overcome.

As each month rolls by, the richness of the 1,000 mile long gold field of Ontario is becoming more and more apparent. And the gold nearly everywhere is free-milling. The veins are often larger and longer than anything the world has yet seen, and there are tens of thousands of them. The richness of many of the strikes is remarkable. In fact the conditions are such that a cold-blooded relation of them would seem to most old-country mining investors as either the invention of a "boomster" or the delirious ravings of gold fever. The best way for possible investors in Europe is to send out competent experts to investigate. Come and see for yourselves; you will conclude that the half has not been told.

CAPITALISTS who invest in Canadian mines, might with advantage to themselves reside in Canada. We have a large variety of climate, we have the loveliest of scenery, the brightest of skies, and all the variations in surroundings that a cultured or a merely wealthy man or a combination of the two, could desire. We range in climate in Ontario alone, from the heat of cotton-growing Pelee, the warmth and mildness of Southern Ontario with its nine thousand square miles where the peach can grow; its twenty-five thousand square miles where vineyards may flourish, to the bracing north shore of Lake Superior, where amid labyrinths of lake and stream, snaps of the Arctic descend in winter for a few days at a time under a latitude the same as that of Paris, and suns as bright as any in France. Come on and stay with us.

ENCOURAGEMENT by way of financial aid to stamp-mills for our free-milling gold ores, and smelters as supply the needs of pocket nickel deposits as those of the Sudbury country, should not be neglected in the shaping of the future policy of either Provincial or Dominion Governments. The bigger mines, or rather real mines, generally find it most convenient and profitable to erect stamp-mills of their own. But where these cannot be used by others, or where a sufficiently large group of developmental properties are found, turning out paying-ore, as most of our developments in Ontario do, from the start, a government-aided stamp-mill would be a great aid in the rapid development and settling of our Ontario north and north-west.