

of the rocky wastes of Thunder Bay and other districts,—each prospector necessarily the means of spreading fire far and wide, irresponsible and unwatched, unpunished for criminal negligence and tolerated as a necessary, and perhaps, welcome evil, with a degree of fatalism akin to imbecility.

Prof. Coleman's description, in recent issues of the *Globe* newspaper, of his own experience while on a survey for the Government, the recent extensive forest fires in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the great destruction of timber which has followed "prospecting" operations in Eastern Ontario, are warnings which should not be lightly considered. It must be kept in mind that there is no measure to the calamity we incur by the neglect of safeguards against the destruction of the forest. It is neither impossible nor improbable that the Minnesota horrors of this year may be visited on this province with tenfold fury as the natural consequence of prospectors' camp fires.

6. The scientific and economical extraction of ores under Government management will afford supplies for all metallurgical industries required, or capable of being profitably maintained, in this country, and there is no doubt that ores can in many cases be profitably sold, and yet at prices which will offer bounties to the home metal manufacturer. The extensive use of lead pipe and of other manufactures of lead, afford a good market which should be supplied from native sources, but which is not likely to be so for a long time to come while pig lead cannot be purchased as cheaply here as in the United States. In view of the wide distribution of lead-bearing lodes, some also rich in silver, in various parts of the province, there is ample reason why an effort should be made to develop and mine them. The growing demand for copper for electric purposes, and the presence of the ore in various forms in the Lake Superior district are facts which, under ordinary circumstances, would concur to promote mining enterprise. We are confronted by the fact that powerful corporations control the copper market, and that there never was a time when there existed so little encouragement to the private investor to enter into copper mining enterprise as is the case today. The Provincial Government have it in their power to enter into such enterprises with an entire freedom from risks and expenses from which no individual investor is safe. The cost of promoting companies and raising the capital required is usually one-third, or 33 per cent. The in-