



General View of Mining Location—From Moose Mountain.

Iron Ore in New Ontario



Mr. John W. Gates.

MOST people are now fairly well informed as to the mineral wealth of Ontario, but few have any idea or knowledge of the immense deposits of iron ore contained in the Moose Mountain Range, the present known conformation of which extends northwesterly from the northwest shore of Lake Wahnapiatae, in the District of Nipissing, to Onaping Lake in the District of Algoma, approximately forty miles. Twenty-five miles due north of Sudbury the iron-bearing rock in the Township of Hutton spreads out for

a width of several miles. Here are situated the properties of the Moose Mountain, Limited, the pioneer company of the district.

The existence of ore in this district was known in a general way for many years. In fact, during the gold excitement of the nineties, prospectors travelling the west branch of the Vermillion River, in search of the yellow metal, made portages across a ridge of one of the iron deposits at a point now known as the "Iron Dam." In 1902, Sudbury prospectors, through Mr. Chas. S. Osborn of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, succeeded in interesting Mr. John W. Gates of New York and associates in this particular property. Enough exploratory work was then done to prove its value and negotiations commenced with the object of securing a rail connection between the mines and the Georgian Bay.

Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, appreciating the possibilities of the ore tonnage as a source of revenue for their railroads, became interested in the properties of the Moose Mountain, Limited, and as a result a branch of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway has been built from Sudbury north to the mine, a distance of thirty-five miles. The railway ends at the mines and from there north to Hudson's Bay is an unbroken

stretch of virgin forest, unpenetrated as yet by even those pioneers of civilisation, the lumbermen. A year ago this railroad's present terminus was inhabited only by the moose, deer and other wild animals ranging from the clumsy black bear and cowardly wolves to the chattering squirrels and chipmunks.

Ore handling docks are under construction by the Canadian Northern interests at the Key Harbour, Georgian Bay, forty-five miles south of Sudbury, thus providing an outlet to the Great Lakes for all ores from the Moose Mountain Range with but a short haul of 80 miles from the mines to the water.

The ores from the Moose Mountain Range are hard magnetites and its shipping ores will grade higher in metallic iron than the average ores now being shipped from the Lake Superior district. Professor Coleman of the Ontario Bureau of Mines in his report for the Bureau of Mines in 1904, gives the following analyses of samples of the Moose Mountain ores:

Iron	62.64
Phosphorus011
Sulphur056
Titanium	none

The Moose Mountain Company is now actively engaged in developing its properties for the shipment of ore commencing with the spring of 1908. Camps for the single men, houses for married employees and various other buildings are now erected and already form the nucleus of what is hoped will be one of the most prosperous mining towns in the Province. Ore crushers, power plant, compressors, and so on, are to be installed at once and it is expected that next year ore will be going forward at the rate of a train load a day.

Already visitors are being attracted and last month a train of nine Pullman coaches containing the excursion of the American Mining Engineers visited the Moose Mountain mines. The members of this party were amazed at the showings of ore and all predicted great things of the new Range.

It will be interesting to Canadians to learn that Mr. John W. Gates, who has taken such a practical interest in these Ontario mines is to-day in England, where, it is rumoured, he intends to make his home. Mr. Gates, like the well-known Mr. Croker, will live the life of a country squire. He will keep a large racing establishment, just to give full play to his love of sport and speculation. Mr. Charles G. Gates will represent his father on this continent.