

it comparatively shallow; a rush of prospectors; a few very rich creek beds worked for a few miles in length, yielding startlingly large returns; a rapid growth of the national gold output and continuance of the same for a few years, followed by a gradual decline broken only by the occasional discovery of other rich spots, serving to revive our prosperity for a time. Then after some years, as a secondary result of the previous development, discoveries of veins and other deposits of rich ores of the precious metals, and as the country became opened up and accessible, the development of a permanent and steadily growing mineral industry.

The growth in our output of gold and silver on the latter basis will evidently be slower, but it will be steady and certainly of greater and more lasting effect on the prosperity of the community. A much larger proportion of the wealth produced remains in the country, not as in the Yukon, where so large a percentage of the value is carried away by alien prospectors to be expended outside of Canada.

Even in vein mining, however, with our large areas where the possibilities are good, it is not unreasonable to hope for the discovery of exceptionally rich deposits and districts, and there is no reason to regard as impossible a repetition to a greater or less extent of the history of South Africa already alluded to.

A further consideration, rendering probable a great and permanent increase in our mineral industry in the immediate future, is found in the fact that outside capital not only in England but in the United States has begun to realize the great possibilities of the country. The increasing regard in which Canada is being held as part of the Empire will also undoubtedly cause greater enquiry from the Old Country as to the chances here for profitable investment. Such inquiry can be given a satisfactory answer.

In the east we have the numerous gold veins of Nova Scotia worked as yet to comparatively slight depths and with small capital, and yet for about 35 years yielding steadily, as a whole, the most satisfactory returns on the capital invested. Judging from the results of the work being done there by the Geological Survey and considering the very favorable situation of these districts for easy access and cheap working, it would seem as if