

New mines continue to be opened ; old ones are either on a paying, or approaching a paying basis. Lands in surveyed territory are being purchased from the Government.

New discoveries continue to be made in unsurveyed districts and the problem of making mining a legitimate business enterprise, as well as a permanent industry in our midst, appears to have been solved.

So much has been written about the actual work that has been done in the Port Arthur Silver District during the past that even with the fear of being considered an enthusiast, I cannot forbear making a brief comment on some of the most interesting points.

Mining appears always in Canada to be considered an illegitimate business. Men may speculate in telegraph stocks, which really neither increase nor decrease in value ; they may gamble in Bank stocks, which seldom vary in the dividends they pay ; they may boom real estate to such an extent that a city of 150,000 or 175,000 inhabitants has land enough laid out in "additions" to hold a million people, and which cannot possibly have any other than a speculative value for a generation ; they may take a hand in a Chicago wheat, corn or pork corner, in which they invariably pay for their experience ; they may do a hundred other things of the same character, but these they consider safe or paying investments or speculations, as the case may be. But ask them to buy mining lands, at two dollars per acre, and invest the most modest sum, not in mining, but in seeing what their lands contain, and what is their answer ? If they have courage enough to buy the land they will neither sell at a reasonable price nor show their faith by working. What is the result ? Today, every working mine in this District is being operated by either English or American companies, and seventy-five per cent. of the recent sales of Government lands are made to either American or English investors. Is it much wonder that Americans say that we do not appreciate the richness and value of the great mineral District tributary to our Town.

As is well known, silver is our chief product.

I will not enumerate the various other minerals that are found here. You all know them and you all know further with what success they may be mined.

I will say, however, that the silver, native and black, as found here, are not exceeded in quantity or richness in any other known part of the world ; and I have yet to learn of a mining district that has ever produced a mine which within twelve months of commencing active operations has produced and shipped silver enough to pay the cost of the land, the surface improvements, mining work, to build a silver mill, and return as much as is invested in this work and improvements in cash to its owners. This is the history of the Badger.

The Ontario Mining Commission visited this District last summer.

It is expected that their report, which will no doubt be submitted to the Legislature, will do much towards giving our mines and district the prominence they deserve.

It is also expected that some slight changes may as a consequence be made in the Mining Act.

Iron explorations have been carried on to a greater or less extent during the last season on the range which appears to extend in a southwesterly direction from the C. P. R. crossing of the Kaministiquia River (Kaministiquia station) to the International Boundary. The surface indications are that ore of quite as good a quality and certainly to quite as great an extent exists there as is to be found south of the line in the State of Minnesota ; and it is not unreason-