

lakes. An incalculable total of energy is waiting to be harnessed in the falls and rapids of these rivers.

But, in spite of the wealth of forest and stream, the north country's future is dependent upon the discovery of new mineral deposits.

Even before the discovery of Cobalt, northern Ontario was believed to be a region of great possibilities. Since that event belief has been strengthened, possibilities have become actualities, and the prospectors' zone of operations has been enlarged indefinitely.

Another most important factor in the development of Ontario's mineral wealth has been the intelligent assistance freely offered to the public by the Ontario Bureau of Mines, not only by means of its publications, but also in the form of summer classes for prospectors. It must also be mentioned that the personal influence of the Bureau officials has had a strong and beneficial effect upon mining operations.

Along with the beneficent influence exercised by the Ontario Bureau fairness demands that credit must be given the Canadian Geological Survey, whose efforts, extending over half a century, have always made for the healthy development of the country.

General conditions in Ontario are favorable to the permanence and growth of the mining industry. The mining laws, while open to incidental objections, are carefully constructed and honestly applied. A tax of 2 per cent. on the net annual profits in excess of \$10,000, resulting from the operation of any mining venture, is imposed.

In the older mining fields transportation facilities are, of course, excellent. New lines are being laid and projected.

IRON.

About the year 1800 an unsuccessful attempt was made to operate an iron smelter in the County of Leeds at Gananoque River falls. Later, in 1813, an Englishman named John Mason, erected a furnace in the shore of Lake Erie at the mouth of Potter's Creek in the Township of Charlottetown. In operation it proved a failure. But in 1822, Joseph Van Norman and Messrs. Hiram Capron and George Tilson, who had meanwhile bought the concern, put it in blast. The furnace was kept in commission profitably until 1847, when owing to scarcity of ore and fuel, it was shut down. The iron produced at this furnace was made directly into merchantable castings.

Another blast furnace was built on the Crow River in Marmora Township in 1820, to smelt the magnetic ores at Blairton. This attempt was not profitable and, in 1828, the principal creditor, the Hon. Peter McGill, of Montreal, who had taken over the concern, asked the provincial legislature for a loan of £10,000 to carry it on. No assistance, however, was granted, and the business was conducted at a heavy loss until, in 1847, Mr. Van Norman, was induced to purchase the property for \$21,000. Again the furnace was started in the summer of 1848. The pig iron was carted to Belleville, over bad roads, a