

sorts are cheap; efficient labor can be obtained on easy terms, the labor of white men, not of negroes or Indians; and life and property are as safe as anywhere on the globe.

The laws relating to mining and mining locations are simple, and generally admitted to be fair and favorable to the prospector and mine owner. All locations are bounded by east and west and north and south lines, reducing boundary disputes and the customary litigation of mining countries to a minimum.

In conclusion, the impressions formed during the summers' work may be summed up in the statement that the prospects are better than ever before. One mine has already proved to be a splendidly paying property, and several others are apparently on the point of becoming so. The number of properties on which promising finds of gold have been made has greatly increased, and the area of known gold-bearing rock has been considerably widened. Many of the properties located will no doubt prove of little value, as is the case in every mining region of the world; others will not turn out to be extensive enough to justify an independent mill, though they may be worked at a profit when within reach of a customs' mill; but it may be looked on as certain that a considerable number of the locations taken up will eventually prove to be paying mines.

### The Rainy River Gold Fields.

The gold fields of the New Ontario, which are attracting so large a degree of attention at the present time, are situated in the extreme west or northwest part of the Province, in the Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, Seine river, Manitou and Wabigoon regions. Huronian schists are found alternating with the Laurentian formations in many parts of these sections, and during the past two years, numberless discoveries of gold have been made, principally in the Huronian rocks, but also to a lesser degree, in the Laurentian or granite. Indeed, an area of altered granite or protogine, as it is sometimes called, between Bad Vermilion lake and Shoal lake on the Seine river, proves to contain a very large number of auriferous veins, some of which are being worked at the Foley and Ferguson mines, and elsewhere. In the Lake of the Woods section, the Sultana gold mine has been producing bullion steadily for over two years at a handsome profit; the Regina mine is also equipped with a stamp mill in operation, and on many other properties active exploration and development work is being carried on. The prospect is that many explorers will be overrunning the districts during the present season (1897), and that ere long northwestern Ontario will be the scene of a prosperous and permanent gold-mining industry. Should this expectation be realized, it is not difficult to foresee the very beneficial results which will accrue to the benefit of farmers along the Rainy river, and in the vicinity of the mines.

### Information as to Mining Locations, etc.

Mining locations in unsurveyed territory in Nipissing, north of the Mattawa, Lake Nipissing and French River, and in Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River are to be rectangular, 80x40 chains (320 acres); or 40 chains square, (160 acres); or 40x20 chains, (80 acres), 20x20 chains, 40 acres. One chain in width is to be reserved along lakes or rivers. In surveyed townships, the mining locations shall be one-half, one-quarter, one-eighth, or one-sixteenth of a section or lot, but not less than 40 acres.