

furnish a strong argument for the state ownership of mines, if the welfare of the laborer is, as it should be, of more intrinsic value than the dividends of mining companies.

4. The mineral domain of this province cannot be safely given over to iron barons and silver kings, or great syndicates. The "writing on the wall" condemns all such proprietorship. If the mineral industry of the United States has ministered to the upbuilding of great fortunes, to the enrichment of men who buy American senators like hirelings, all this comes, not from the incorrigible corruption of human nature, but from a system of administration of state lands essentially corrupt and vicious.

What are a century or two in the life of a nation? If American enterprise has gained a present empirical success by the disregard of every duty owed from the legislators and administrators of today to the citizens of the future, there are not wanting those among her sons who condemn the gross breaches of trust, the shameless brazen fraud and corruption of state and federal legislatures in dealing with the public lands. It becomes those who would see planted in this country the foundations of a higher civilization and more durable progress than any existing in the United States, to investigate the all-important subject of the best system of administration of the resources of the Crown domain for the benefit of the people of this province.

5. One condition has followed the development of the iron mines of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and in some degree the exploration for minerals in Ontario, which will assuredly affect, as a growing evil, mining enterprises as now conducted in the western and northern districts in this province, and that is, the rapid destruction of the forest. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was attended with no protection of the forest in the public interest, with the inevitable result of the destruction of an enormous area of timber between the Ottawa River and Rat Portage. The residue within ten miles or more of the road is for the most part of little intrinsic value save as a protection to future growth and the possible re-foresting of portions of the burnt area. This gives the small timber which the prospector and miner will destroy by the square league for every camp fire, an extraneous but not inconsiderable value. No act of greater folly could be perpetrated than to allow prospectors to roam over the silent leagues of virgin forest which yet grow like islands in many