

Molybdenum and other minerals which have been mentioned come under this heading to some extent, as they are used in chemicals.

7. Minerals used in agriculture.

Our phosphate deposits, which are found over a large area in south-eastern Ontario, have lain idle since the discovery of the lower grade, but more cheaply worked, deposits of the southern states. A large supply of gypsum, another mineral of value to the agriculturist, is found in abundance along the Grand River in older Ontario, and on the banks of the Moose, in the north, the substance appears to occur in considerable quantity.

8. Fuels and illuminating materials.

For years past the south-western peninsula of Ontario has been an important producer of petroleum. During the last two or three years the supply has declined. That this part of the province still has important deposits of oil admits of little doubt. Heretofore this substance has been looked for practically only in the Corniferous formation, in which the first wells drilled happened to occur. Within two or three months oil has been struck in promising quantities in two other formations, which up to the present have received little attention from those interested in the industry. One of these formations lies 700 or 800 feet below the horizon from which oil is now obtained, and the other is still older.

In that great, practically unexplored, region of the province which occupies the James Bay slope, the Corniferous rocks are said by Dr. Robert Bell to occupy a greater extent of territory than is embraced in the whole of the south-western peninsula of Ontario. Is it not more than likely that both oil and gas will be found in this northern region when it is rendered accessible by the building of railways? Niagara and other formations also occur there. In fact it presents practically the same geological conditions, but on a larger scale, as the older part of the province which has already proved to be productive.

New gas pools have been exploited recently, and what has been said concerning oil applies to this very useful substance.