

one, but it has been courageously met, and the industry is to-day upon a healthier and more established footing than at any period in its history. If there has been a falling off in silver, lead and placer gold output, this is more than offset by the great increase in copper and lode-gold production, and the value of the mineral yield in 1901 should certainly not fall below twelve million dollars. Larger sums were distributed as dividends during the past year than in any previous corresponding period, while there were fewer mining fiascos and an almost entire disappearance of "wild-catting" methods. The prospect is eminently cheering, for as the year closes labor differences have been settled, conditions as affecting the silver-lead mining districts have been improved, new discoveries at Horsefly and elsewhere promise well, and activity prevails in nearly every section of the country. This new year will also see, doubtless, the opening up of new and promising districts by railways, while the productive area will also be extended by the addition of territory wherein heretofore development operations have alone been in progress.—Bureau of Provincial Information, B.C.

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A great many owls are reported in Manitoulin Island this year, and people are shooting them by wholesale to be stuffed, whereupon a contemporary remarks that the best interests of Manitoulin Island would be served if the owls were alive in the woods instead of being used as ornaments in spare rooms or front parlors. If there is an unusual number of owls up there it simply means that there is an unusual

amount of work for them to do, and if they are shot and not allowed to do their work the farmers will probably have reason to regret it. The owls are there because rats and mice abound. Instead of killing them, the people of the locality should regard their coming as a protection against pests. Charles W. Nash, of Toronto, has written a pamphlet about the birds of Ontario, which the Department of Agriculture has published, and in it he shows that the killing of owls and hawks on sight is extremely foolish. The great horned or cat owl occasionally kills poultry and partridges, but it chiefly lives on rats, mice, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, and muskrats. Mr. Nash's own investigations, and those conducted by Dr. Fisher for the Washington Government, show that the cat owl is the only member of the family that ever kills poultry, while all the others—the long-eared, the short-eared, the barred and the screech owls—subsist almost exclusively on rats, mice, and insects. Mr. Nash says of them that in following out the natural law which governs their lives they greatly help to keep in check that vast army of little animals which, if allowed to increase unrestrained by their natural enemies, would in a few seasons destroy all vegetation on the face of the earth.

Hawks meet with the same unreasoning enmity. There are eleven species common in Ontario, and of these only five are ever known to touch poultry, and two of the eleven are the chief offenders. The goshawk kills poultry, but he is seen in Ontario in winter only. He is a large bird, while the hawks that prey on chickens in summer are small ones. "Hen hawks" never touch poultry, and seldom or never