neared the shores of the lake, in 1880, that any effort beyond that made by the lonely prospector was possible; and not until regular communication was opened in 1881, did the usual swarm of gold seekers enter the lake country, and commence the exploration of its shores and islands.

It might reasonably have been supposed, that with railway communication into the heart of the gold-bearing district of the Lake of the Woods, mining would have made rapid strides. Unfortunately, a combination of circumstances, among them the boundary dispute mentioned elsewhere, which made titles to property uncertain, effectually discouraged the investment of capital upon any work of development. Since the settlement of this dispute, and the granting of crown patents, some six years ago, innumerable claims have been taken up, and actual work of development has steadily progressed, though until quite recently, in only a tentative way. As in other new districts the obstacle to rapid development has been a want of knowledge of the nature of the ore, and the best way to treat it. In evidence of this, it need only be mentioned that until comparatively recently, it was a pretty general opinion that these ores were refractory, whereas it has now been definitely proved that they are all free milling. It was also considered by many, including some trained experts, that the veins would be found to gradually decrease in width at any depth below the surface, whereas all present development has shown that, on the contrary, the tendency is rather that they gradually increase. The experience of Mr. J. F. Caldwell, the father of practical mining in this district, has been in this direction; and, as will be seen, further on, in the description of his mine—the Sultana—at a depth of 300 feet the ore is in a greater body than at any point nearer the surface. Even with perfect assurance of the continuance and depth of the veins there was the want of experience as to the best methods of treating the ore. Mistakes have been made in many cases, resulting in disappointment which would have been easily avoided if as much had been known of the nature of the ore as is known now, thanks to the perseverance and good judgment of Mr. Caldwell, to whom, indeed, the whole credit is due of having, once for all, established the reputation of the district, and shown how to mine and treat the ore to the best effect.

No arguments are now necessary to prove the fact that this is a very promising gold field; there are the solid facts of actual production, which are the very best kind of proof. Two mines at least—the Sultana and the Regina—have now reached considerable development; both are giving most satisfactory results, exceeding in both cases the most sanguine expectations of the owners; they are situated at a distance of many miles from each other, and had no more promising surface indications than scores of other claims in the district; therefore is it not reasonable to suppose, that what is being obtained from these two mines—the first to be carried to a comparatively extensive stage of development—may be equalled by many other properties, and probably considerably surpassed by some? It would surely be a strange circumstance if the very first mine to be opened in an entirely new district should prove to be the best one existing there. The contrary is very much more likely; and the accounts which we give below of what is now being done on other properties, show conclusively that there is many a Sultana lying beneath the surface there, and only awaiting the application of a little capital and labor to yield equally good results.

FALLS OF THE WINNIPEG RIVER, NEAR RAT PORTAGE.

It is now entirely beyond dispute therefore, that the gold is there in quantities and in a form that may be worked most profitably—as profitably, perhaps as in almost any gold field in the world—and when the other natural conditions of the district are taken into account, who can doubt that, in a very short time, here will be one of the great gold producing centres of the world? Let us consider these other advantages for one moment, and compare them with the natural disadvantages of such a dis-