

Opinions of Leading Authorities.

SEVERAL years ago Professor J. Edmund Woodman, then connected with the Geological Division of Harvard University and now in charge of the Dalhousie School of Mining in Halifax, was commissioned by the Government of Nova Scotia to visit Northern Inverness and report on the mineral resources of the Cheticamp and other districts.

In his official report to the Government Professor Woodman says :

" For some reasons difficult to discover, the firm belief appeared fixed in the minds of many that nothing good of a metallic nature could come out of the island. That this is a false impression any one can learn by a sufficiently careful study of the rocks.

" There is no doubt but that the region occupied by the older rocks is one in which a number of districts are capable of successful development, if judiciously handled, with the proper distribution of men and money.

" I am the more pleased to have arrived at this opinion because it has been reached by direct field work, influenced by no prepossession in favor of the region, with little help held out except by a few who had seen some of the territory, and with full knowledge of the well-nigh universal condemnation accorded to the country in commercial circles.

" I would be unjust if I were to convey the impression that I have seen anything which indicates the presence of enormous wealth in the rocks of any locality. But it is not upon such foundations that the prosperity of a region can be based. Prosperity is far more likely to follow the healthy development of lasting investments which yield moderate rewards ; and I believe there is room for such in the ores of Cape Breton."

Dr. Edwin Gilpin, Deputy Commissioner of Works and Mines for Nova Scotia, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, in one of his official reports to the Government refers as follows to the report of Prof. Woodman :

" I have on several occasions drawn attention to the probability of the Northern part of Cape Breton yielding valuable deposits of gold, silver, lead and copper. However, as an outside opinion was worth more than one from an official of the Provincial Government, and would carry more weight with the world at large, Mr. Woodman's services were secured.

" He approached the subject with no pre-determined views, and you will be pleased to learn that he considers the districts promising, and that their mineral possibilities have been very much undervalued, and that they should, if properly prospected and developed, prove valuable additions to our mineral wealth."