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HASTINGS COUNTY, ONTARIO.

The steady white light of Cobalt; the intermittent glare of Gowganda, Elk Lake, and Lorrain; and the immediate glamour of Porcupine, have thrown an undeserved shadow upon other mining districts of Ontario.

Geographically, Ontario is a vast and rich empire. But the history of its older mining regions has not been written. It is recorded vaguely in the memories of men who have seen three generations come and go.

Last week's visit of the Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Mines for Ontario, to various points in Hastings County, was his ministerial inspection of that district. He was accompanied by Dr. W. G. Miller, Provincial Geologist; Mr. E. T. Corkill, Inspector of Mines; and by the editor of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL.

It were out of place to give here an itinerary of the brief journey. Our wish is rather to seize the opportunity to allude to the wonderful variety of minerals, and the unusual number of mining opportunities that exist even in the small section of Hastings County, examined during this visit.

It has become the habit of investors to look upon the mining districts of eastern Ontario as being either dead or moribund. How far this is from the truth is easily discovered by any person who takes the trouble to see for himself. And in adducing illustrations we confine ourselves to a part of Hastings County merely because space will not permit us to do more.

Within a radius of less than thirty miles three flourishing industries are established. At Sulphide, 136 miles east of Toronto on the C. P. R., a large acid manufacturing plant is producing steadily. Four years ago the Nichols Chemical Company began work here. Iron pyrites is mined locally and is purchased from several operators throughout the neighbouring country. This is probably the nucleus of an industry that will in time be second to none of its kind in North America. Deposits of clean pyrites, free from arsenic, occur over a large stretch of country. They wait the advent of the investor.

At Madoc, about fourteen miles to the east of Sulphide, is situated the only talc mill in Canada. The raw material is of exceptional purity. It is mined within a short distance of the town. The ground product now competes with unqualified success in the markets of the United States and Europe. As at Sulphide, so here, the introduction of hydro-electric power has cheapened operations materially. The capacity of the Madoc mill is soon to be doubled. At present the demand largely exceeds the output. Incidentally we may mention that the 125-foot shaft at the talc mine is a gratifyingly clean