

have come to feel that they are partners and jointly interested in a system of works and industry, perhaps without parallel in variety and importance.

I have pointed out the critical disposition of the town's people at the inception of these works. I must declare how much we owe to their vigorous and constantly growing support. Their support has grown with their faith; they are of the right type. They could not be otherwise and inhabit the zone in which we live. I do not speak disparagingly of the Southerners, whose graces and intellectual qualities everyone admires, but the cosmopolitan observer in studying the history of the human race about the world will find a belt spanning the globe wherein the vigor of the climate and the changing seasons seem to produce in the human race an energy and a restless industry which has accomplished for mankind the greatest results. The northern limit of that belt has never been found; the southern limit is defined with some certainty; the northern states of Europe, and of the United States and all of Canada are within these blessed bounds, and of this race are the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie. Besides a sturdy physique and an ability for endurance, the people of this zone are inspired with mental attributes of the right sort to insure success in their occupations and duties. Let me illustrate by some recent experience having a local interest. You will all remember the advent here, during last year, of four ocean-going British steamers brought out by us to engage experimentally in the navigation of the St. Lawrence river to the lakes and carry the traffic of the Helen iron mine during the open season. At the close of the navigation season these ships were sent to sea, completing their loading at Montreal with full cargoes for Bristol Channel ports. Leaving Montreal in the month of December they encountered in the passage across those unprecedented gales of this winter, which seemed never to end, and which destroyed and disabled many of the best ships on the North Atlantic. I myself crossed through the midst of these gales on one of the largest and fastest ocean liners, and you will believe that I did not fail to see those little ships in my