

stores of mineral wealth which have of late years been revealed in that area, and the present development of our western Ontario gold fields was an impossibility. The same remark applies to the great deposits of nickel at Sudbury, which were disclosed by the building of the Canadian Pacific, while it is only in the last three years that the new and valuable finds of corundum have come to light, as a result of the explorations of the Geological Survey.

In all attempts at mineral development there are of necessity a host of schemes placed on the market which are largely speculative. This seems to be an unavoidable evil, but it also, unfortunately and seriously, interferes with the actual business of legitimate mining. Areas practically worthless are placed before the public under high sounding names, and in the rush after speedy wealth many of these are assumed by the uninitiated to be of equal value with those which are clearly of economic importance. The resulting disappointment on the part of the holders of stock in worthless properties tends to bring discredit on whole areas of valuable lands, and results in very serious injury to the mining interests of the country at large.

Another great source of harm to legitimate mining is the misstatements of certain persons, who, under the guise of mining experts, travel the country and pretend to discover valuable mineral deposits, sometimes by the aid of the mineral rod and sometimes by means of experience, supposed to be gained in other mining fields abroad; and it is a curious thing to note that, if the so-called expert or prospector can claim to have been in Australia or California, his dictum is held to be quite conclusive as to the value of any mining property, even if any experience so obtained may only be acquired as the result of shovelling away the accumulated debris from around the surface of the pit. Such experts, it may be said, generally do more harm than good in so far as deciding on the actual value of a mining area, and many owners of comfortable farms throughout this country have speedily lost all their property by following the lead of such blind guides. The peculiar properties of the