

us with many a lakelet and waterfall, and have rendered picturesque many a region whose landscape would otherwise have remained monotonous and unattractive.

It is difficult to state definitely what part of the 220,000 square miles embraced in the territory of Ontario possesses a rocky surface that is not well adapted to agriculture. It probably is about one-half. Over this broken region there are what have been roughly classed as two great groups of rocks, the Laurentian and Huronian. We have been educated in the belief that the Huronian is *par excellence* the mineral-bearing system of the two, and that the Laurentian, with the exception of the crystalline limestone and associated rocks of the Grenville series, was to be considered of little economic importance. Much of what we call the Laurentian system is composed of acid plutonic and metamorphic rocks—granites, syenites and gneisses. We have been told that these particularly, which occupy vast areas, were of very little importance, as the storehouses of economic minerals. Prospecting and development work during late years have, however, disproved the old belief concerning this series; and I look forward to further interesting mineral discoveries being made in these maligned rocks. Mica, which, with the advancement in electricity is likely to become still more important, is found in what appear to be economic quantities in many coarse-grained granites. Heretofore the mica mined in this province has been practically all of the phlogopite variety, which is found associated with apatite, calcite and pyroxene. The greater part of the muscovite used on this continent has been imported from India. One of the chief electrical firms of the United States is now planning the development of muscovite deposits in Ontario to replace that from India now used by them. This promises to become an important industry, as white mica is found in many localities from the western boundary of Quebec to the eastern border of Manitoba. Micanite has brought about the use of smaller sheets of mica than could be used a few years ago, and many of the muscovite deposits, considered of no value at that time, now contain merchantable material. Then these Laurentian granites are known to be the