

# THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER

DEVOTED TO  
THE  
MANUFACTURING & MINING INDUSTRIES,  
OF THE  
DOMINION.

## AND INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

VOL. VI.

TORONTO, ONT., JANUARY 7, 1887.

No 1.

### LOOKING NORTH.

THE remark has been made before that Canada can extend her boundaries in one direction only. Already she is limited by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and by the Pacific to the west, while the boundary of the Great Republic marks her limits to the south. In one direction only, therefore, namely, Canada extend herself: she may reach out towards the North Pole as far as Nature will permit. What really useful and practical extensions of the country's limits may yet be made in this direction remain to be seen; but we do know that we can go much farther north, and that to much better purpose, than was deemed possible fifty years ago, twenty-five years, or even only ten years ago. Over two to three thousand miles of country from east to west the Canadian Pacific Railway has opened up a great main line, from which branches will shoot northward along every available avenue, and will penetrate wherever there is anything worth looking after. What this railway has done is to establish communication with the world and a base of supplies along the whole east and west line, good for both summer and winter, and always open. The venture is now fairly open to those who like to try, and we may look for it that men of enterprise will soon be found to push the venture for all it is worth.

Our present business is more particularly with the region of country lying north of Toronto and between here and Lake Nipissing, now recently opened up throughout by the completion of the Callander extension, giving connection with the Canadian Pacific main line. On the last day of the old year the *Toronto Globe* published a very full and interesting account of the towns and villages along this northern route, describing their progress, trade, and principal manufacturing establishments; and we now transfer to our columns a good deal of the information supplied concerning the latter. These are, of course, mostly in connection with lumber and manufactures of wood, although near to the city mixed manufactures of wood and iron, in the shape of agricultural implements and machinery, are carried on to a large extent. Up to as far as Gravenhurst the country has been opened up for years back, while the counties of York and Simcoe are old settled districts. What *new* interest there is attaches chiefly to the district just now opened up by the Callander extension, from Bracebridge to Thorncliffe, at the east end of Lake Nipissing, where it connects with the Canadian Pacific main line. Recommending our readers to what the *Globe* has to tell of what has been done as far as settlement has proceeded, we invite them to take a glance farther north, and to contemplate for a little the possibilities of what may be achieved by pushing at least as far as James' Bay,

which is the southern arm of Hudson's Bay, the great Mediterranean of the North.

Many descriptions of the natural characteristics of Old Canada have pretty well impressed upon our minds the fact that what geologists call the Laurentian formation underlies a vast region north of the great coast, with important extensions into the country south of it as well. Except in valleys here and there, and where it borders on newer formations, the Laurentian country is not an agricultural country, and never will be, though limited districts occur which are exceptionally well adapted for raising a superior quality of dairy produce. Timber in immense quantities exists, and the northern limits of practical iron-mining have never yet been determined, for the reason chiefly that there never has been any demand to speak of for the ore. In all probability most people, when glancing at the map, have promptly concluded that the vast *terra incognita* lying around the southern end of Hudson's Bay could be none other than another Labrador lying inland, what we may call an ultra-Laurentian country, where nothing but rocks and snow and ice were to be looked for. But this is a great mistake, so the scientific men of the Canadian Geological Survey assure us, and of late years they have been giving us new light on the subject.

Going north we come to the height of land which separates the waters flowing into Hudson's Bay from those flowing into the St. Lawrence. And now let us get hold of this important fact, and note it well, that as we get into the James' Bay region, we find ourselves not in a Laurentian country at all, but standing on geological formations of immensely later age—the Devonian, and, later still, the Carboniferous. This alters the case entirely, we have now to deal with quite another geological world, so to speak. Here we stand on the iron, also on the coal, most important of all. Professor Bell says in one of his reports:

"Around James' Bay and up the eastern side of Hudson Bay lie great deposits of iron and coal, so close together that, with the cheap water freights which the region may afford, the district along James Bay may yet become another Pennsylvania. And after referring to the soil, climate and forests, says: 'Minerals may, however, become in the future the greatest of the resources of Hudson Bay; large deposits of rich iron-stone on the Mattagami River, in 1877, have been found; inexhaustible supplies of good magnesian iron ore were discovered on the islands near the east main coast of James Bay, and promising quantities of galena, and also near Whale River, traces of gold, silver and copper. On the east main coast lignite was found,' etc., etc.

"Another explorer, referring to the great deposits of iron, coal and other minerals in the neighborhood of James Bay, says: 'I have no hesitation in pronouncing this district the