

of useful reports containing exact information upon a variety of subjects. Investigations of an important character have been undertaken. Questions relating to processes for more satisfactory and economical extraction of ore are constantly arising. There is always the difficulty, however, that the Minister or official, whether in the Province or in the Dominion, who strives to advance, is faced with the difficulty, not only of doing his ordinary and usual work, but of overcoming the natural inertia which opposes itself to progress and the adoption of new and advanced ideas. A careful survey of the work done by the various Departments of Mines will undoubtedly result in making clear the lines of practicable progress, stimulating co-operation between the different departments, strengthening the hands of those who desire to follow a progressive policy, and also, which is hardly less important, eliminating classes of work, the utility of which is not apparent.

It would be quite outside of my scope to undertake to speak at large upon the mineral resources of Canada. Let me mention a few salient facts.

1. In 1905, the mineral production of Canada was 20½ millions.
In 1908, the mineral production of Canada was 87 millions.
2. If you look at the geological map of Canada, you will see that the development has taken place, practically, (leaving out the Yukon) only in territory lying fairly near to the southern boundary, that is, to the inhabited and settled territory.
3. Wherever prospecting has been done farther north, indications of valuable minerals have been found, and, by accident, great wealth has been uncovered in some cases.
4. Our whole country north, from Ungava to Yukon, is of a geological formation which renders it almost certain that it is rich in valuable minerals.
5. There are in the province of Ontario, large bodies of certain classes of iron ore which are, at present, useless. They can be utilized, so far as our present knowledge goes, only by the introduction of electric smelting. The water-power is abundantly available. Our Government has taken the lead of all the governments of the world in the investigation of the subject. Economic plants for electric smelting of iron ore are now being established in Norway and Sweden. We have led the way in investigations, but we are behindhand in the application of the knowledge acquired. A great industrial development lies ahead of Canada in connection with this subject. Our Government should be urged to spare no effort in its encouragement.