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ONTARIO MINES IN 1913

The report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines for the year 1913 has just been published. This report contains detailed information concerning operations during the year. Preliminary reports were issued in March; but the complete report has been, as usual, a long time in the press. What it lacks in up-to-dateness, however, is compensated by the character of the contents.

The statistical review by Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, is like all of Mr. Gibson's reports, full of useful information carefully presented. A concise summary of statistics of mining in Ontario during the year is always to be found in the Bureau of Mines reports and to Mr. Gibson belongs most of the credit. Mining men sincerely regret that such a splendid official is this year suffering greatly from ill-health.

The report shows that the mineral production of the Province during 1913 had a value of \$53,232,311. The greater part of this total is contributed by the Sudbury nickel-copper mines, Cobalt silver mines, and the Porcupine gold mines. But many other mines and quarries contribute large amounts. That Ontario's mineral industry has become of such great magnitude is especially fortunate this year when the importance of productive industries is being impressed on everyone.

Mr. Gibson in his introductory paragraphs points out some of the ways in which the mining industry develops the country. He says:

"Diversity of occupation exercises a favorable influence upon the development of a new country. No one industry, of course, is self-sufficient, and, in these days of increasing specialization, every industry tends to become more dependent upon and more necessary to all the others. Naturally, the industries which first take root in a given area are those for which its resources are most evidently adapted. In a wooded country, such as northern Ontario, the first in order of time is lumbering. Where the land is good and railway access is afforded, agriculture comes at once upon its heels, closely followed, where there are workable minerals, by mining. Soon all three industries are found in various stages of development, each playing an important part in the settlement of the country. Felling the trees and hauling the logs give employment to the settler during the winter months and help him to earn some ready money. Lumberjacks and miners alike must be fed, and so there is a home market for all the farm produce which the settlers can raise beyond their own requirements. The settler is himself a lumberer so far as his own farm is concerned, and brings sawlogs, pulpwood, railway ties