

HISTORY, RESOURCES AND FUTURE

stantial progress has been made during the past ten years. The lumber manufactures, of course, top the list in value of products. Foundry products run to \$2,685,094, cotton to \$2,673,226, while the products of fish curing and fish preserving establishments run to \$1,500,000, and the products of biscuit and confectionery factories and flour and grist mills to over \$1,000,000 each. There are in all 1,094 manufacturing establishments in the Province, a number of which have within the past few years found profitable markets for large quantities of their output in every Province of the Dominion to the farthest limits of Western Canada. Thus at last has the far-seeing wisdom of New Brunswick's Confederation and national policy champions been fully vindicated and the misgivings, which many of our people entertained for many years that we could not fairly share in their benefits and advantages, been finally dispelled.

Coal, Gypsum and Iron.

Mineral development which previously had been inconsiderable has been entered upon during the past few years to such an extent and with such promise that it is rapidly taking its place among the leading industries of the province.

Extensive bituminous coal fields exist in Queens and Sunbury counties, which until the past few years had been mined only to a limited extent by the private owners of the lands on which they are situated. A few years ago the Central Railway was extended from Chipman to these mines with the result that in 1910 over 46,000 tons were mined and now this railway is being extended from Minto to Fredericton by the Fredericton and Grand Lake Coal Co., whose charter has been acquired by Sir Thomas Tait, and his associates, under an agreement with the C. P. R. to take over the railway upon its completion and operate it as part of the C. P. R.

system, while Sir Thomas Tait and his associates will undertake the development of the mining areas upon a large scale. The effect of such an operation of these mines upon the industrial life of the province can scarcely be foretold.

New Brunswick has also valuable gypsum deposits in Albert county and at Plaster Rock on the Tobique. The Albert Manufacturing Co. of Hillsboro quarries nearly 100,000 tons of crude gypsum a year, the greater part of which is shipped abroad in lump form but a considerable portion of the product is reduced at Hillsboro and shipped as plaster to Canadian and United States points and even to Australia.

A few years ago iron ore deposits were discovered in Gloucester county, which have been found to be the largest iron deposits in Canada. The property comprising 30 square miles of territory has been acquired by the Drummond Mines, Ltd., of Montreal, and is now being actively developed. The Northern New Brunswick & Seaboard Railway has been built into these mines and extensive docks have been constructed at Newcastle for the shipment of the ore. Over \$1,000,000 has already been expended in connection with the development of these recently discovered mines. The ore averages about 50 per cent of metallic iron and it is estimated that by hand picking or rough lump sorting, one-half of these large ore bodies can be made to average 57 to 58 per cent. The development of these mines, even if it does not lead to the establishment of a smelting industry, and is confined simply to the mining and shipment of ore, will afford millions of dollars of labor in the coming years.

Natural Gas and Oil Wells.

The most important discovery of recent years, however, having regard to the future development of the province, has been the natural gas and oil wells and the shale deposits in Albert and Westmorland counties. The Maritime Oil Fields, Ltd., of London and