

at North Bay. It will soon possess these, making its position as a working railway proposition much stronger. Another point worth noting is that the Ontario road will ere long originate most of the traffic on which the G. T. R. line to North Bay must depend, because the C. P. R., which uses those rails now, is completing a road of its own nearer the Georgian Bay coast, and extending from Toronto to Sudbury Station, which lies about 80 miles west of North Bay. Parallel with this road is another from Toronto up to New Ontario, the James Bay Railway, under construction by MacKenzie & Mann, owners of the Canadian Northern Railway system. In other words, there will be three trunk lines from Old into New Ontario.

POWER IN THE NORTH.

As indicative of the water power in these regions, it is said that the Ontario Government have under consideration plans which the Commissioners have endorsed, involving \$1,000,000 outlay, to run the T. & N. O. R. with electricity, instead of steam, from North Bay to Englehart, power to be developed at Ragged Chute, on the Montreal River, nine miles from Cobalt. The development would give 8,000 horse-power, 5,000 of which the road would require, and the rest sold to private consumers for mining and other purposes. Fountain Falls, near Ragged Chute, is also capable of developing between 3,000 and 4,000 horse-power. This year's coal bill, alone, on the road, amounts to \$75,000. This would be greatly reduced. To electrify the road would lessen the risk of forest fires, as a safeguard against which, in the meantime, a strip on each side of the track has been carefully cleared of timber.

THE LAND OF THE TOURIST.

An incidental but an important feature of Northern Ontario, are the attractions of the Temagami and Temiskaming Lake regions for tourists. Upon this continent they are unrivalled. Two thousand pleasure and rest hunters found them last year, and the number will be doubled in 1906. These beautiful lakes are navigable, and already supplied with steamers and tugs. The waters are cold, crystalline blue, and well supplied with the finest of fish. Every move of the boat brings into view a fresh inlet or island, and the everlasting hills are all clothed with the beautiful greenery of the timber. Incredible though the figures may seem, Temagami, with all its arms and sinuous indentations, encloses 1,100 islands, and is computed to have a coast line of two thousand miles. On Bear Island there is a Hudson's Bay fort; here and there one encounters little bands of Indians, and at Deer Lake, further on, in curious juxtaposition of past and present, an immense summer hotel, with a gas plant and modern plumbing fixtures, that must be costing "Dan" O'Connor, the "King of Temagami," a small fortune, which he expects to get back with interest from the wealthy American tourists, for Temagami is no poor man's paradise. Property goes "kiting" in these regions. Jake Gaudaur, the ex-champion oarsman, bought a hotel at Haileybury last year for \$17,000, and sold it in the spring to Buffalo people for \$42,000. A Cobalt town lot sold for \$12,000. Boom! On the hotel registers we found the names of people from all parts of Canada and the States. There are two lines of boats on Temagami, and several commodious hotels for tourists.

THE TIMBER.

Everywhere Northern Ontario is covered with timber—pine, spruce, cedar, hemlock, tamarack, birch, balsam, poplar, being the prevailing varieties, and the railway is skirted with vast piles of logs, posts, ties and lumber. It is estimated that in the Temagami Forest Reserve alone there are five billion feet of timber. Recently the Government received a \$200,000 bonus for a 21-year lease of pulpwood-cutting rights in the Montreal River basin, besides a large annual revenue, according to the proportion of spruce in the 26,000 cords to be cut every year, and taxed for stumpage. Under proper forest management, the timber will keep growing and producing a fresh crop to sustain the Provincial revenues and further develop the country.

MINERAL WEALTH.

The keenest interest of the excursion centered in the mines at Cobalt and other points. The entire country swarms with prospectors. Recorder Smith, at Haileybury, has been issuing about 50 licenses per day, at \$10 each to prospectors. The Timmins, Tretheway and other mines were inspected, the first-named showing a vein of pure silver several inches thick at the rock ledge. Amid all the talk of "Cobalt bloom," "rich finds," and carloads of ore ranging in value from \$6,000 to \$75,000, the uninitiated visitor has little chance of knowing where he is at. In the official records of Director Thos. W. Gibson, of the Bureau of Mines, however, we can get down to some actual facts which show that the most of this rocky north land is rich in minerals. The net output of metallic products in 1904 for Ontario was \$4,906,677, and the non-metallic, such as arsenic, mica, cement, graphite, petroleum, etc.,



Mr. Wild's Farm, Blanch River, Temiskaming District. A Typical Homestead Scene in the Clay Belt.

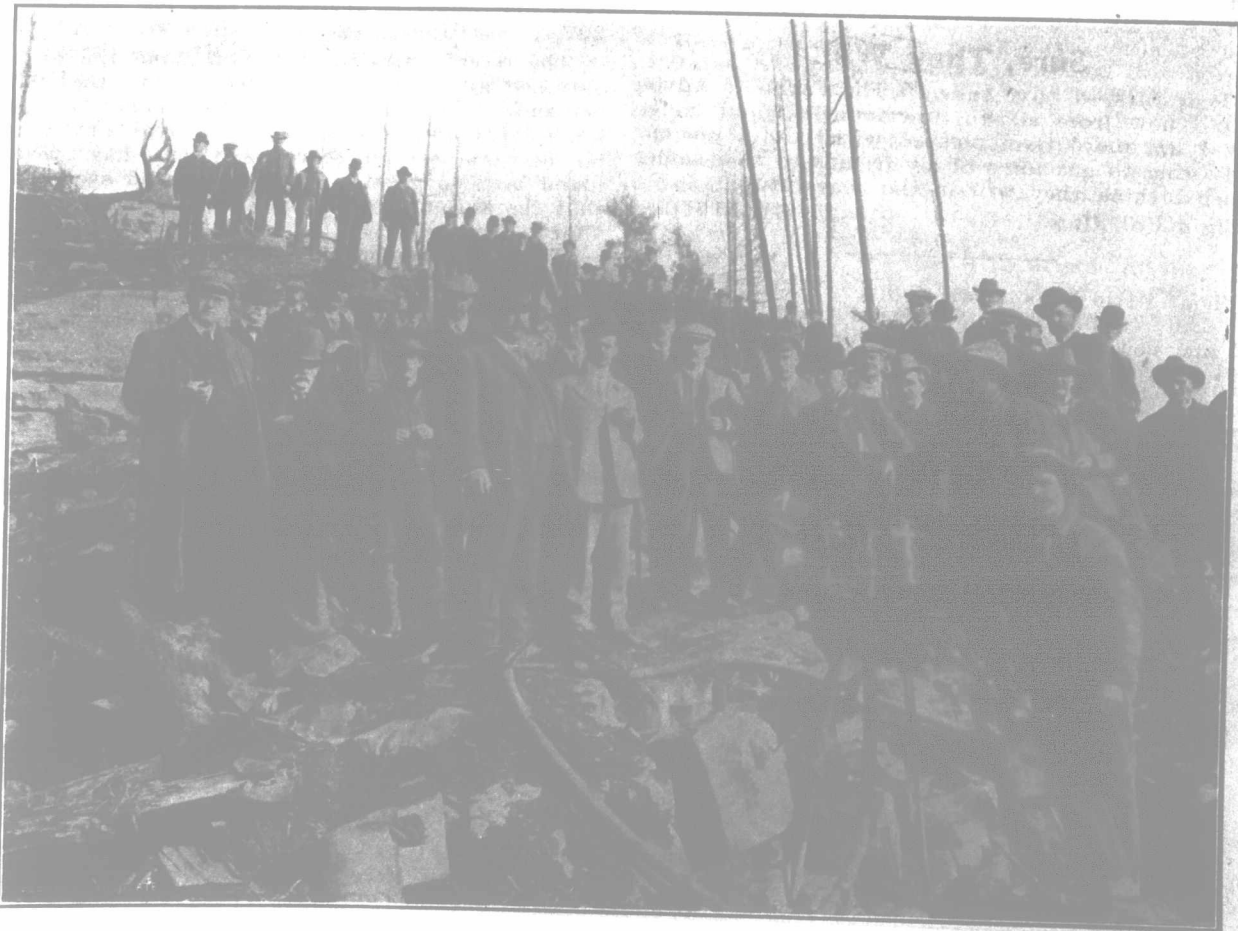
\$6,665,970, making a grand total of over \$11,500,000. The output for 1905 will actually approximate \$18,000,000 or \$19,000,000. The production of the silver-cobalt mines alone of Lake Temiskaming, last year, amounted to \$1,400,000. Cobalt has been a tremendous advertising card for New Ontario, and a boon to the Government railway. Cobalt is so called from the mineral of that name and a small lake, on the shore of which the town stands.

Mining in Temiskaming dates back at least to the early seventies, when Wright's mine was operated on the east shore of the Montreal River. Various "finds" were made along that stream, but not worked sufficiently to demonstrate their worth. It was left till July, 1903, for two pioneers to bring the glittering silver to light by Cobalt Lake. McKinley and Darragh had the honor of getting free grant from the Crown for first discovery. Other discoveries succeeded that fall, and in 1904 and 1905, development rapidly following, numbers of mines turning out rich stores of ore. While there is every reasonable prospect that the mining industries of New Ontario will continue to develop enormously, we counsel "Farmer's Advocate" readers to steer clear of the boom and mining stocks, because, as in the past in other localities, hundreds of worthless claims will probably be staked and sold on paper.

THE FARMING COUNTRY.

The preponderance of the rock and forest areas along the line, and the quick run through the Temiskaming clay belt, does not leave an altogether favorable impression on those who look at the country from the purely agricultural point of view. The best settlements are not in sight of the track, and not a few of the rural M. P. P.'s looked dubiously at the moderate depth of black earth above the whitish clay subsoil; but the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and we have taken some pains to collect the testimony of ac-

tual settlers on the fertility and wearing characteristics of the soil, which we hope to lay before our readers shortly. Be it remembered that this clay belt is timbered, and must be cleared before cultivation. This is steadily proceeding, and with excellent results. The whole district, except Holmes Township, not suited for farming, has been taken up, though cancelled claims and lands held by others can be purchased. Under the 50-cents per acre, purchase from "the Crown" scheme, the settler is required to spend six months each year for four years on his land, build a house at least 16 x 20 feet, clear at least two acres annually, receiving his patent when 16 acres are cleared. As near as we could ascertain, there were some 6,000 farms taken up, and of these some 3,000 are in actual occupation, the remaining 3,000 being "veteran" claims, "speculators," those who cannot live on their farms for lack of roads, and others who, while not able to live on their farms, are doing some improvements. This spring a good many have had the mining fever, and are prospecting instead of farming, and some have probably foolishly sold their farms to develop mines. This district is very level, free from stones, and the surface soil is a rich black loam, producing very fine crops of all kinds of grain, vegetables and small fruits. We noticed that wherever the timber was cleared a heavy growth of nature's benediction (grass) made its appearance. Clover grows luxuriously. One misses in these regions most of the birds that make vocal the woods of Old Ontario. The Crown Land Agents are Mr. J. J. Grills, at New Liskeard, and Mr. W. Hugh, at Englehart, the new divisional point on the T. & N. O. R. About 65 miles of new rural roads, for colonization purposes, are being built this season, at a cost, including bridges, etc., of from \$1,000 to \$1,300 per mile. The roads are 60 feet wide, or 30 feet from ditch to ditch. Mr. W. E. Kerr is the Superintendent of road



Legislative Group at Timmins Mine, Cobalt, Where a Vein of Pure Silver Greets the View.