

Ontario.

The mineral wealth of Ontario is extensive and varied. Much has been brought to light in the older parts of the Province, and as exploration pushes forward into the newer regions and railways are built through the forests, new mineral-bearing tracts are discovered and undreamed-of resources revealed.

The history of railway building in Ontario during the last couple of decades runs parallel with the discovery of new and important mineral fields. For instance, in the early eighties the Canadian Pacific Railway was being laid down to bind together the east and the west. In cutting through the rocks west of Lake Nipissing, rich copper deposits were encountered, which a little later were found to be still more valuable for nickel; and ere long the nickel mines of the now famous Sudbury District were in operation, which produce the lion's share of the world's supply of that metal. Again, in 1903 the Government of the day, desiring to connect the older parts of Ontario with the new, projected the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario railway from North Bay towards the northern inland sea. During the construction of this railway the silver veins of Cobalt were discovered, the first finds being within a few yards of the right of way. This was one of the notable mining discoveries in North America, taking rank with the gold of the Yukon, the copper of Arizona, and the silver of Colorado.

To rear an imposing fabric of industrial civilization the basic necessity is iron ore. All other industries depend upon the iron industry. Eastern Ontario abounds in magnetic ore; some of it of Bessemer quality, but much of it of lower grade, though capable of utilization by concentrating and purifying processes. In Northern Ontario there is an immense extent of iron formation, parts of which have yielded large bodies of workable ore, such as the Helen, Moose Mountain and Atikokan mines. There are many more known localities where the ore bodies on the surface are low in iron, and where more systematic and costly search by the diamond drill will be required to detect the presence of merchantable ore beds. The smelting half of the iron industry is already on the ground in Ontario. The blast furnaces are located on the great lakes, at Hamilton, Midland, Deseronto, Sault Ste. Marie and Port Arthur, where they are well situated for receiving supplies of both ore and coke. Up to the present they have been using, for the most part, imported ore, but the supply of the domestic is gradually increasing and may shortly be expected to displace, partly at least, ore from the other side.

In the metals, the products distinctively characteristic of the Province are nickel and silver. The Canadian Copper Company and the Mond Nickel Company have for years been at work on the southern range and are producing altogether about 10,000 tons of nickel and 7,000 tons of copper per annum in the