

on veins five and one-half feet wide, \$1.00 (about 4s.), per ton; the miner—hand-drilling—to furnish powder, caps, etc.

In north-western Ontario wages by the day are largely fixed by the rate at Rat Portage, a town over a thousand miles north-west of Toronto, and at the entrance to a south eastward and eastward stretch of navigation, extending some hundreds of miles through a small portion of the gold fields of that small portion of the gold region of the province of Ontario. The rate for ordinary miners at Rat Portage and in mines near by on the Lake of the Woods ranges from \$1.75 (about 7s.) per day and upwards, with board at the mines. Board at Rat Portage is \$3.50 to \$4 per week (14s. to 16s.), but miners can, where they can get a frame and especially a log shanty, live as comfortably on half as much. There are no extravagant demands such as are found in Johannesburg in South Africa. The sea-like lakes butt up against the region and provisions are not costly.

If you have a family you may bring them with you, when you come, or, at any rate, as soon as you have time to look out for quarters for them.

With a comfortable log cabin, or a frame building—more expensive to heat in winter—you can put up with pioneer life in the wilderness and have a good deal of happiness too. At present, at many of the mines, the situation is new, and men's quarters are provided, and separation from a family living in some village or hamlet some distance away is unavoidable for a time. But these mining camps soon grow into villages, with cheaply erected houses, and with a public free school and a church.

The cost of living is higher than in the cultivated and settled southern part of the province, or on the lake-board. But beef, pork, fruits and vegetables are not dear, and in house-keeping luxuries are obtainable at smaller cost than in England. The cost of provisions varies of course a good deal, according to the situation of the mining camps.

In the gold fields of south-eastern Ontario—Madoc and other points just a little north of Lake Ontario, and in the midst of a comparatively settled country, apples sell for a shilling to two shillings a bushel; peaches are cheap, either canned or fresh; grapes, which are sold at a halfpenny to a penny per pound in Toronto and which a thrifty housekeeper can utilize for preserves and jams, are produced in enormous abundance in southern Ontario, and cost just a little more in Madoc. Tomatoes are worth twenty to fifty cents, (10d. to 25d.), a bushel, and form excellent relishes for summer or in jarred form for the winter. Beef sells from four to six cents. Flour is much cheaper than in Britain. But the ores of this region contain other minerals than gold, and we do not expect the mines to develop so rapidly as five hundred or a thousand miles further west in the province.

About 200 miles north of Toronto is a nickel and gold field, partly developed, but cheap living is obtained here also, with a slightly

higher cost than in Hastings county. Sudbury is the town to be reached, as a mining centre.

On the extreme north of Lake Superior there is much gold, but the camps are yet so few that you need not bother about them before reaching this country.

Port Arthur, a civilized town, lying back of the splendid promontory of Thunder Cape on Lake Superior, and at the head of a bay which has been compared with that of Naples for beauty, is the gateway to the great gold fields of north-western Ontario. Around it the country is rich in gold, silver, iron and copper. Silver operations are to be carried on this spring. The cost of living for a family is small, for to this port steamers as large as great ocean steamers ply from the agricultural and fruit-growing country of the Lower Lakes.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will carry you to Bonheur, a little station in the wilderness, whence access is obtained to the rich and rapidly growing mining district of the Upper Seine, where there is much demand for practical miners.

Rat Portage, a civilized town of five or six thousand people, is at the north end of the Lake of the Woods—a large, many-armed body of water. It is over 300 miles west of Port Arthur by railway, and the many steamers plying on the lake furnish ready access to a very active gold mining region, immediately around, as well as to the Seine River gold fields, over two hundred miles, by steamer, further east. West of Port Arthur the cost of meat, vegetables and fruits is higher than at Port Arthur, but very much lower than in Great Britain. Wood is the fuel used for cooking and heating.

You should not come unless you are prepared to stand the hardy, rough life of the backwoods. You bid good-bye, in these mineral regions, to the cultivated lands you see in the old country; granitic, hornblende and other rocks rise around you in rugged precipices. A wonderful beauty of lake and river is everywhere in a profusion not known in Europe. The bush—the woods—is about you, and a primitive equality and kindness to mitigate the change from old surroundings. The heat in these northern parts of Ontario is sometimes oppressive by day in the summer, but the nights are nearly always comfortable. In the winter the weather is very cold, but the woods check the winds, and the sun is bright and the air bracing. Down in real mines the temperature is, of course, that of spring or autumn.

For a short time mosquitoes and flies are troublesome. But there are devices you may learn from the native Canadian for mitigating these nuisances.

Wild animals are not troublesome. Bears are not feared, nor wolves. The Indians are not a bad lot. They are kindly when properly treated, and a fill of a pipe goes a good way when you want their help.

There is very much work to be done in developing new "claims," which are numbered by the thousand. The gold hunter, also, has his chance of finding new veins, and selling the land he finds gold or silver ore on. He gets

the land for a trifle, by simple registration. Sometimes he sells it for a good sum. There are thousands of gold properties known, and many thousands more to be found, for the country is yet unexplored.

To reach the gold fields you can either use railways or steamers, or both. To reach Port Arthur, on Lake Superior, you can book to Toronto by rail or boat, take rail to Sarnia at the foot of Lake Huron or to Collingwood or Owen Sound on the Georgian Bay; or you may take rail through from Quebec or Montreal. It is well to take a ticket straight through to whatever destination you wish to reach, and not fool around Canadian cities. Sudbury, an important centre, is reached by rail from Montreal.

In British Columbia conditions are much like those of Ontario. Rossland is a small city in the mountains and right in the centre of a mining camp. The coast mines north of Victoria are primitive; the winter is wet and much like Cornwall or Liverpool. In the interior the winters are colder. The cost of living is higher than in Ontario. The ore is generally not "free milling," as in north-western Ontario, but the country is one of great promise. The distance from Halifax is over four thousand miles. Good miners there have excellent opportunities of making money.

## NICKEL.

We note that prior to 1892 a reliable assayer and also a manufacturer of metallic nickel in the United States, who obtained their oxide from the Canadian Copper Co.'s product, found from an average sample of 18 tons of this oxide 0.25% of platinum. We also note that the Canadian Copper Co. are now erecting at Cleveland, Ohio, a large experimental electrolytic plant for treating their Bessemer matte, which averages about 43.5% copper, 40.0% nickel, 0.3% iron, 13.8% sulphur, 7 oz. silver, 0.1 to 0.2 oz. gold and 0.5 oz. platinum per ton, a total value of precious metals per ton of \$14 to \$17. The proceeds of these, with the copper, fully pay all cost from the mine to market. If however, we take the first quotation, that prior to 1892, and we are prepared to back up the reliability of it—we get from platinum alone: per ton of oxide 5 lbs. platinum = 60 oz. @ \$15 per oz. = \$900 per ton; per ton of matte 16% on low grade = 10 oz. @ \$15 = \$150 per ton; per ton of ore (average) platinum of value \$25 per ton; thus showing a much larger margin of profit. Still mining nickel-copper ore does not pay and the *Mail-Empire* allows itself to be used as a medium to choke off capital from being invested in the nickel industry in Northern Ontario.

There is, in the bulk of the nickel ores of the Sudbury district, in by-products alone, a good margin of profit and we would urge capital to look this way; there never was a better outlook for nickel as evidenced by the extraordinary advance in the price of the French Nickel Co.'s stock during the past two months.