

SAULT STE. MARIE SECTION.

The feature that from a purely agricultural point of view is regarded as the principal drawback of the district—the large quantity of rocky and sterile country to be found along the water front—is in fact a source of prosperity and stimulus to an industrial influx, as these apparently valueless areas have been proved to be rich in mineral wealth. Gold, silver, copper and iron deposits have been discovered. The greatest unknown supply of nickel in the world is contained in the formation found in the southeastern portion of the District, although the centre of the present development, Sudbury, is a few miles outside the boundaries of Algoma. Nickel mining nevertheless has an important bearing upon the opening up and development of this district, as the smelting and refining of nickel is a leading industry of the town of Sault Ste. Marie, the commercial and manufacturing centre of the district. Within a very few years this town has attained prominence as a rapidly growing and industrial community, where the raw material of the region tributary to it is worked up into finished articles of manufacture.

Sault Ste. Marie in the southwestern angle of the district is situated on the St. Mary's River, which forms the international boundary between Canada and the United States. The water power furnished by the Falls and its accessibility by means of the navigation system of the great lakes, has contributed greatly to its development as the leading town in the district. The branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway has brought it within 24 hours' journey of either Montreal or Toronto. Ship canals on both the Canadian and American sides of the river constitute it an important point on the great international system of inland navigation. The town had a population of 7,169 in 1901 which is rapidly increasing.

THE CLERGUE INDUSTRIES.

The great cause of the recent development and industrial prosperity of the town and surrounding district was the selection of this locality in 1894 by Mr. F. H. Clergue and a number of capitalists associated with him as the site for numerous inter-dependent manufacturing enterprises. The reasons which influenced this selection were the feasibility of securing enormous hydraulic power readily convertible into electric energy, and the quantity of raw material in the form of timber, pulp wood and minerals within easy access.

ALGOMA CENTRAL RAILWAY.

The Algoma Central Railway is one of the most important of the undertakings of Mr. Clergue and his associates so far as affects the opening up and populating of the district. It will run from Sault Ste. Marie to the Michipicoten mining district, and thence north to the main line of