

only two countries in the world—the United States and Mexico—exceed Ontario in silver production. We produce 80 per cent. of the nickel of the world, and Ontario's output of cobalt has driven other sources of supply from the world's markets. We are also fast taking a prominent place as a gold-producing country. The value of our mineral production in 1915 was \$57,856,375, and from present indications this production will be far exceeded in the present year. The rapid growth of this industry is shown by the fact that twelve years ago our total production was less than \$13,000,000. The Cobalt Silver Camp in the last ten years has produced \$122,750,000 in silver, and in 1915 these mines paid dividends aggregating \$4,441,948; and up to the end of 1915 dividends amounting to \$59,660,912 had been paid by this camp. The Porcupine Mines have only been in operation a short time, but up to the end of last year they paid over \$5,000,000 in dividends. And there are millions of acres of mineral lands yet remaining that have never been mapped by a geologist or echoed to the sound of the prospector's pick.

Our timber wealth can scarcely be estimated. We have on Crown Lands alone undisposed-of timber valued at over \$400,000,000, and the value of our annual output of timber is over \$25,000,000. But more important than the lumber trade itself is the advantage our supply of all kinds of timber affords to the manufacturers of the Province. This will be apparent when I point out that Ontario uses in her industries annually lumber and timber valued at \$20,000,000, 82 per cent. of which comes from our own forests. In 1911, the date of our last census, Canada had \$260,000,000 invested in her lumber and timber industries, and these industries paid annually \$40,000,000 in wages to the men engaged in this work; and the Province of Ontario controls over one-third of the whole timber and lumber industry of Canada. We are taking measures to preserve this great national asset, so that it will be a source of wealth and a stimulus to industry for all time to come; and we have about 23,000 square miles in national parks and forest reserves, where we do not permit settlement, and where we guard the timber carefully from fire and other forms