

outlook for mining in the future, and especially of nickel and gold. Why, then, is this development so slow, and why are capitalists so unobservant of the attractions here for mining investments? As an example, let us look at some of the gold claims worked in other places as compared with those in this district.

OTHER GOLD FIELDS.

The Homestake mine in the Black Hills yields only \$3.79 in gold, and after reducing leaves a profit of \$1.19 per ton. The second annual report for the year ending May 31st, 1892, of the Treadwell mine, Alaska, shows a profit of \$361,000 earned during the year on an average yield of \$2.95 per ton. The Haile gold mine, South Carolina, yields only about \$4.50 per ton, while here we have several quartz veins yielding from \$10 to \$100 per ton that remain unworked. True, in many cases the gold may be associated with refractory ores which increase the cost of production to double or even treble the amount had it been free milling quartz, but even this should leave a handsome profit. These mines above referred to of course have large bodies of ore, as would indeed be necessary where the yield was so small per ton.

Why then this slow progress to mining activity here? It cannot be that there is no demand for gold. That we all know is next to an absurdity. Is it because those gold mines are on American lands and these on Canadian, and that capitalists are more ready to invest under their own flag than in foreign countries? Is it that the enterprise and energy of the people make mining a greater success there than here? Is it that capital, which is in demand at present throughout the civilized world, has so many chances for investment which have not the risks pertaining to mining enterprise, that it is hard to attract it for this purpose?

OUR NICKEL MINES.

A careful inspection of the various nickel deposits will show that nickel mining is bound to be the principal industry on this range. The enormous size of the deposits, which never can be fully estimated, makes it certain that if the demand for this metal is sufficient the mining of it will at once become a necessity, and do away with the ordinary risks involved in mining generally. It is quite evident that most of the development work done is not what it should be, as an inspection of many claims opened up will show. Two or three men will set to work and sink a hole five or ten feet deep, then considering the property developed, go in search of a purchaser. Nine times out of ten the purchaser will give no more for a property in that shape than when it was found, and he is very liable to turn away disgusted at first sight, having reached there over a long and tiresome trail through the woods, expecting to find a fully developed mine. Of undeveloped claims, too, glowing accounts are often given by the discoverer, and one of the greatest drawbacks in making a sale of a good property is leading the intending purchaser to believe there is more ore to be found, and of a better quality than there really is. Rather under-rate a property, and if it is found to bear out your reports, you have gained the confidence of the party with whom you are negotiating, and turned the tide in favor of not only your own, but also of properties in the vicinity. There is an excuse, however, for those who, not pretending to know, or not knowing the valuable minerals at sight, accidentally, or otherwise, find what they suppose to be valuable, and wish to create a wonderful impression of their discovery.

Of these people, the Indian is the most wily, and they have yet to learn that well known proverb "that all is not gold that glitters." More than one of us have been led by them over long trips of more than one day's journey, our hopes buoyed up with brilliant accounts of the glistening gold and silver we were about to see. But after reaching the place, and viewing some shining mica specks in a granite boulder, or probably a small deposit of galena, we retrace our steps with a resolution never to be again led astray, yet only to be broken on the first opportunity.

A PECULIAR RANGE.

The prospector or expert coming into these mining fields expecting to follow the rules and instructions as laid down in the different works on geology, will be at a loss trying to reconcile his observations with his former ideas. He will find quartz veins, bearing gold and silver, running from the centre to all points of the compass, and not in those running in any particular direction need he confine his search for the precious metal. He will find rock matter which will puzzle him to place in any of the different classes he has heard of. He will find a mixture of minerals in the same rock which he would have thought impossible to be so closely associated; and he will find, if his observations are anything like those of the writer, that he must adopt rules of his own, or follow at least the thread of his own observations independently of what may have been his former opinions. I do not mean to convey the idea that there is no rule or idea worth following in the search for minerals here, or in the examination of properties. But I do say that these ideas can only be formed and carried out by those who have studied closely the physical features of the district and have observed closely the manner in which the minerals occur.

A WIDER FIELD.

In conclusion, I would draw your attention to a wider field than our own immediate vicinity. It is more than probable that the globe could be travelled over and the several countries examined superficially without finding as varied a surface in as small a territory as we have right here in our own Province of Ontario. The valley of the Lower Ottawa, with the agricultural plateaux extending for miles back; the eastern portion of the province, with its flat rocky limestone ridges showing their faces to the sun, or clad with a light covering of soil; the fine agricultural fields of the western portion of the province, whose soil and soft material in many places have yet to be fathomed; and that portion of the northern peninsula especially favored with boulders during the glacial period, Muskoka, with her hardwood ridges, Laurentian rocks, and beautiful inland lakes.

Nipissing and Algoma, with Laurentian and Huronian rocks, mineral belts, clays and sands, hills and valleys, lakes and muskegs, spruce and tamarac swamps, and pine-clad mountains; western Algoma and Rainy River, with their richly pocketed rocks, fine rivers, water powers and thickly-wooded lands, all go to make up the varied and finished surface which nature has favored us with.

What agriculturist could not be satisfied with Western Ontario, the Ottawa valley, or the fertile belts throughout this northern country? What mineralogist or mining investor cannot find fields of labor or investments in the gold and nickel ranges of Algoma and Nipissing? In Eastern Ontario's phosphate, iron and