

western Ontario, undoubtedly occurs in connection with gold-mining. The existence of gold-bearing quartz-veins in the Huronian rocks has been known for many years, but of late, a few well equipped though small mining and milling plants have been established, chiefly on the picturesque shores of the Lake of the Woods, and discovery is being very actively pushed throughout a wide belt of country running thence nearly to the border of Lake Superior, and including Rainy Lake, Seine River, Manitou Lakes, and a plexus of other smaller rivers and lakes. There can be no reasonable doubt of the value of a considerable proportion of the properties taken up, and under skilled advice, with the necessary capital for bonding and opening out groups of claims in an experimental way with a view to the purchase of those proving to be satisfactory, the conditions here appear to be now most favourable to judicious investment.

On this region Professor A. P. Coleman, of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, makes the following remarks, which appear to me to be sound and judicious: "Gold presents the brightest outlook of all for speedy expansion, especially in the part of the province west of Lake Superior; and I fully expect to see a well-established gold-mining industry there within a few years, something of a quiet and permanent character, like that of Nova Scotia, but on a larger scale, since the extent of our gold-field is much greater."

While speaking of this western part of Ontario, a word may be added respecting the occasionally rich silver deposits of the vicinity of Thunder Bay, from which, although comprised within a limited area, several million dollars worth of silver have already been drawn. These at the present time are idle, but they appear to wait only a more systematic method of working of a collective character to renew their importance.

Chief among the mineral industries of the southern or peninsular part of Ontario, are the production of petroleum, salt, natural gas, gypsum, and materials of construction of all kinds. These, however, have become established domestic industries, in respect to which the need of additional capital is not much felt.

Iron ores of excellent quality abound in many parts of Ontario and Quebec, and a limited amount of iron is already produced in both provinces, but the absence of adjacent coal deposits, with the duty maintained against ores by the United States, render the mining and smelting of iron subject entirely to tariff provisions.

The mining of apatite or "phosphate," at one time considerable, and from which much was hoped, particularly in certain districts of Quebec, has of late years become unprofitable because of the competition of cheaper, though lower grade, foreign minerals applicable to the manufacture of fertilizers. In these very districts, however, the production of mica for electrical purposes has