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We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing; but the world judges us by what we have already done.

Longfellow.



WILLET G. MILLER,
Provincial Geologist of Ontario.

The inter-relation of the Sciences, is a fact which must appeal to every Canadian Engineer who looks northward today. Ontario statesmen, years ago perceived the possibilities of the rich agricultural lands on the 16,000,000 acre clay belt lying south of Hudson Bay; but the chances are, that the Government Railway would not be in existence even now, had it not been for the distinguished geologist whose portrait appears above. His report to the Ontario Government, 1901, on "Lake Temiskaming to the Height of Land," showed authoritatively for the first time, that the forest lands beyond North Bay, were abundantly rich in metallic ores, valuable minerals and precious stones. The first sod of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway was turned May 10th, 1902. In November, 1903, a construction gang working on this railway, drew the attention of the Bureau of Mines to some minerals with a pink bloom like that seen on purple grapes. Professor Miller, as expert, was deputed to make examination, and straightway pronounced the samples "rich in nickel, silver, cobalt, and arsenic." This was the first scientific discovery of the Cobalt ore deposits of Northern Ontario. It was logically appropriate, therefore, that he to whom the opening up of the North Countree to commerce and civilization was largely due, should be the originator of the name given to the now celebrated city of silver, viz.; "Cobalt;" which he did on June 7th, 1904.* The fine railway and its equipment described in the last and this issue, reflects great honor to the Engineer; but it was the Geologist who made it possible, hence, his place in our portrait gallery of men who have "done things."

Willet G. Miller was born in the County of Norfolk, Ontario, July 19th, 1867.

* See report of the Bureau of Mines, 1905. Part 2, page 10.

He began his education at Port Rowan High School, matriculating 1890, then entered Toronto University, graduating B.A., 1890-93; and received his M.A. degree in 1897. Fellow 1890-93. Examiner in Mineralogy and Geology 1893-95. Assistant in field geology on the Geology Survey of Canada—in the region north of Lake Huron, 1890-93. Professor of Geology in the School of Mining, Queen's University, Kingston, 1893. In charge of field works in geology, Eastern Ontario for the Bureau of Mines, 1897-1901. Appointed by the Ontario Government to the important post of Provincial Geologist in 1902: a position which he still holds with distinction. His post-graduate academic studies were carried on at Chicago and Harvard Universities, U.S.A.; and at Heidelberg, Germany. His special contributions to science, have been on the Archæan and economic geology of Eastern Ontario; in papers on corundum-bearing rocks, iron ores, gold deposits, etc., which have appeared in annual reports to the Ontario Bureau of Mines; articles in the "American Geologist;" and in addresses delivered before the Canadian Mining Institute, etc. His latest literary effort, is the publication of an admirable little work entitled, "Minerals and how they occur;" which will doubtless soon be adopted as the standard text-book on Mineralogy, in the Technical Schools of Canada. Professor Miller at the present time is in camp with his staff at Giroux Lake, Cobalt, making a topographical map of the now famous "Gillies Limit." On July 19th, (his birthday), they "discovered a good, fat, cobalt vein;" and so the daily work of unearthing the treasures of the Cobalt wonderland goes on. That the Provincial Geologist of Ontario may get some of these good things for himself, and live long and prosper, is the hearty wish of "The Canadian Engineer."