

the Rabbit Mountair, past the famous Beaver and Badger mines, and through the Silver Mountain group of mines, into the valley of the Whitefish, famed not only for its mines, but its resources in timber and agricultural possibilities, then on through rich silver and iron lands to the American boundary at Gunflint Lake. Within four miles of the boundary, on the Minnesota side of the line, are a number of iron mines. These have been consolidated into one large Iron Company, which company has contracted with the railway to ship not less than one hundred thousand tons of ore the first year after it reaches the mines, and to give it the freighting of their entire output for fifteen years. It would seem to be beyond doubt that this road has a bright future before it, and will be of great value to Port Arthur and the territory through which it passes. Already several towns have grown up on its line.

#### DUTY ON FLOUR.

Your Board took an active interest in the discriminating duty on flour as compared with wheat, and by their exertions did much to have the discrimination removed, and justice done to the millers.

#### FIRE INSURANCE RATES.

Your Board, being convinced that the town of Port Arthur was not rated by the underwriters as favorably as it should be, took the matter up vigorously, and appointed a committee to wait on the Board of Underwriters at Toronto, to advocate the views of this board. Your committee met with most flattering success in having the rating of the town raised. Rates of insurance were in consequence lowered one-half per cent., and over two thousand dollars per annum saved, a result which the Board may view with just pride.

#### DUTY ON MINING MACHINERY.

After two years of constant endeavor, your Board has the satisfaction of knowing that no small portion of the credit is due to them, for having mining machinery, not manufactured in Canada, placed on the free list. This was only accomplished after continued pressure and full representations had been made to the government, and the concession is of material assistance to our mining interests.

#### HUNTERS ISLAND.

Your Board petitioned the Ontario Government, asking that the lands on Hunters Island, which had been withdrawn from sale, be again put on the market. The petition being granted, a large and valuable area was thus thrown open to the miner and explorer.