

man was finished with it, fire followed and destroyed everything which the axe had spared. Under proper regulations and imposed responsibilities a goodly growth of young timber would be coming well forward to furnish the woodsman with another harvest.

The pulp industry is much in evidence at present, but it may be overdone. According to the opinion of one thoroughly versed in the business, but few, if any mills in the Dominion are earning a profit, above expenses, and there are a lot more building. It is a business which is proving most destructive to our forests, for everything in the shape of a tree falls before the remorseless axeman. A law prohibiting the cutting of spruce trees under a certain size should be rigidly enforced. In the end it will prove a beneficent policy for the pulp-maker.

"The key to our mineral resources is a golden one—capital," but capital must not be barred or obstructed by harassing royalties or prohibitory export duties. Mining, especially gold mining, is a risky business and one requiring much skill and experience. Unfortunately, it is as a rule managed by the inexperienced and unskilled; by men who look more to the stock board than to the legitimate production of the precious metal. Gold mining in Ontario, notwithstanding all its newspaper booming has not been a marked success. The output of gold is small in proportion to the capital invested, and the total production is only about one-third that of Nova Scotia, of which we hear so little. A little more earnest and practical mining would do more good to the Province than all the daily columns of flattering reports.

The value of the nickel deposits appears to have been much exaggerated. There is abundance of nickel, but it is not yet abundantly used. There is only one company at present producing copper-nickel matte in Canada, the other companies, English, Canadian and American, having ceased to operate. The ore is as a rule, not high-grade and its treatment is not only difficult but costly. The Sudbury ores are very complex, containing copper, nickel, iron, sulphur, cobalt, and occasionally traces of gold and platinum. These have all to be separated and refined. So far the only practical process is that developed after years of careful and costly experiment, by the Orford Copper Company, an organization of Eastern Townships origin.

Mr. Stratton's views of the iron ore trade are we fear rather optimistic. For shipment to Europe the ores of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, half way toward England, would naturally command that market. In referring to the manufacture of pig-iron he states that nine-tenths of the ores used by the Hamilton and Deseronto furnaces is imported from the States. This does not speak well for our Canadian deposits. The blame however, may in a great degree, be due to the policy of the Dominion Government, which pays a bounty of \$2.24 per ton (2,240 lbs.) of pig-iron made in Canada from foreign ore. The Provincial Government grants a bounty of \$1.12 a ton on iron made from Ontario ore, but this is not sufficient to counteract the un-Canadian policy of subsidizing foreign mine owners. For example, the ore to be used by the Whitney syndicate in Cape Breton is to come from Newfoundland, and they claim that it can be laid down in Sydney for a dollar a ton. The Dominion Government therefore will undertake to deliver this foreign ore, free of cost at the furnace, for the sake of having a dollar a ton spent on its conversion into pig. Surely this is a policy unjust to our Canadian miners and opposed to the common policy of developing the mineral resources of the Dominion.

There is force in the contention of Mr. Stratton that, considering the enormous potential wealth of Ontario miner-

als the Government might do more than has been done toward its development by the light of modern research. Speaking of our schools of science, he thinks "the services of their professors might be requisitioned to find out a way to solve this metal-working problem. (He is here speaking of aluminum and corundum, and their separation). There are doubtless some works which our State-endowed universities and schools might do besides the not very elevating one of a daily round of lectures to tell what some really capable and original mind found out long years ago. We want advancement; we want to keep in step with the requirements of our time and country; we want to find out some new and useful things."

We very much fear that Mr. Stratton is impatient, we should not like to say impetuous—though possibly the Government thinks him so in this connection. But we hope he will keep on urging the mineral development of Ontario, session after session.

A PROPER RECORD OF EXPORTS.

Are Canadians up-to-date people commercially or are they not? The Germans consider us rather too much so; the Australians say that what we lack is not ability as manufacturers, but system and promptness as exporters; John Bull says we are "a promisin' colony, doncher know, but a little raw yet—a little raw." The Americans evidently think—but never mind; we have ceased to care a great deal what the Americans who govern think. An answer to the question at the top of this article is that no people of a modern commercial equipment can afford to be without adequate statistics of their exports. These Canada has not.

We are not despising the extensive body of statistics that we possess, nor ignoring the great improvement made in the last two decades in their presentation in the annual, quarterly and monthly Blue Books, and the admirable character of successive issues of the Year Book. But Ontario has never, within our recollection, been satisfied with the subordinate position she has been made to occupy with respect to exports compared with Quebec. We of THE MONETARY TIMES have suggested this a dozen times at least. But her products have been either lumped with those of Quebec, or else credited in large part to Quebec Province. It is now Manitoba's turn to complain of the same thing. A correspondent in Winnipeg writes to us under date 9th March, referring us to the reports of the Board of Trade of that city in the last two years. Mr. D. W. Bole, in his presidential report for 1897, and Mr. A. M. Nanton, president for 1898, both refer to this subject. Says his letter: "Anent Canadian export statistics to which you refer on March 8rd, pages 31 to 33 of Mr. Bole's presidential utterances, and pages 11 and 24 of Mr. Nanton's, have dealt with this matter. Once again the wild and woolly west has been up and doing before the 'effete east' has put the sluggish molecules of its brain in motion. Our Board of Trade has been pushing the Minister of Customs on this matter for the last three ears."

Ontario can very well stand the joke. Both our Winnipeg friends and the Ottawa officials will find she is neither sluggish nor effete. We repeat the suggestion already made in these columns that other boards of trade in Ontario press the Government on this point. Nothing difficult is asked. The injustice done Manitoba has been acknowledged by the member of the Cabinet who can have the wrong righted, and it seems to us that the method proposed to the Hon. Mr. Patterson by the