

is not that we are without minerals but that we have barely begun to exploit them. The slow advancement of our mineral wealth has been largely due to the lack of railway communication and capital. More capital is now being expended in our minerals by both foreigners and citizens, and railway communication which now connects one side of the continent with the other has been established; and as a result the products from our mines have been greatly increased.

Of the four chief resources, the wealth in agriculture is the only one which we seek in any way to keep. Timber, once cut might be, but never is, replaced. Although mines once exhausted are never replenished, still Canada possesses such vast supplies that mining may be carried on for hundreds of years and the income will be far in excess of that derived annually from either our forest or fisheries.

In considering the possibilities of mineral development attention must be first directed to the extent and character of our country. Perhaps we could get an idea in no better way than by comparing with the United States, which is but little smaller in area and has the same physical features. Facts tend to show that much of the mineral wealth of that country is duplicated north of the boundary. The Rocky Mountains and parallel ranges extend about one thousand three hundred miles through the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, and for an equal distance through British Columbia and the Yukon district and it is sure that their mineral wealth does not stop at the forty-ninth parallel. So also the Sierra Nevada is represented north of the boundary by the coast range of British Columbia, and the latter gives every evidence of being richer than the former. We make this comparison because the United States with comparatively less mineral wealth, occupies a very prominent place among the nations of the world in respect to minerals. In the V-shaped territory of Archæan rocks stretching on either side of Hudson bay from the Arctic to the St. Lawrence, there is an immense depository for minerals unequalled south of the line. Our immense coal-beds, on both our Atlantic and Pacific coasts, also, compensate for the immense coal deposits of the Mississippi basin. Canada possesses much wealth in different sections of the country which by reason of mountain upturning and glacial erosion are unfit for anything else.

Nearly the equal of Europe in size, we surpass any one nation of that continent in the variety of our mineral deposits, and may yet equal the richest of them in the total value of our production. Great Britain has had large deposits of coal and her production is the greatest in the world. Her output must, however, shortly begin to lessen, while ours will increase. Russia stands second as petroleum producer and will no doubt surpass us for years. But it is probable, that fields will be discovered in the North-west quite the equal of hers. The Copper out-put of Spain at present exceeds ours, but the deposits here are quite as extensive as there. Similarly with other minerals,