

limelight by the discovery of silver and gold and some other like metals. Farming is a more important industry than mining, but is not nearly so spectacular. Tilling the arable ground is far more necessary to the continued existence of the human family than drilling into the rocks for precious ore, but it is not so exciting an occupation. Yet we are not belittling the importance of the miner's work. Money that a man digs out of the earth, and both the farmer and the miner get it in this way, is clean money. Nor do we quarrel with a company organized for the purpose of mining on a large scale, for the metal, like the coal hidden by the Lord in the earth for the use of mankind, ought to be brought out to add to the wealth of the world. They deserve credit for their enterprise. The curse that often attends mining development is the deluge of fake companies and impossible stocks which come in with a rush on the unsuspecting. This has been true in North Ontario, but it must not blind us to the fact that this is a great mineral country, and that an enormous amount of wealth has been and will be, to a greater extent, uncovered here.

Cobalt is one of the great mining camps of the world. It produces nearly one-eighth of the world's silver supply. There is less excitement, fever of speculation and exploiting than a few years ago, but the great ore veins are there and a tremendous amount of the white metal is being sent out every week. There is, of course, a good deal of interest attaching to the name of the discoverer of the famous mining centre, and the claim to the distinction is somewhat in dispute. The most generally accepted story gives the honor to a blacksmith named La Rose, whose name is preserved in the designation of the mine which was a hot political subject a few years ago. The tradition is that La Rose, while one day swinging his hammer, knocked the surface off a piece of rock and uncovered a spot of almost pure silver. The discovery caused the most tremendous excitement. La Rose sold the property for \$35,000, but it netted the purchasers a cool million. Then the rush was on and people went Cobalt crazy. Thousands lost hard-earned money by foolish buying of stocks. But the innocent earth was not to blame, and events have proven that Cobalt properly considered was and is a genuine proposition as a mining country. All around and in the town there are mines that are famous the world over. With a friend I went down the great Nipissing mine, under the guidance of the mine captain, and spent nearly two hours underground, going through all the corridors on all the levels. With our lamps in hand we made our way, dodging here and there as the men came along pushing the laden iron wagons on the rails to be hoisted up the shaft. The whole business is extremely interesting. The mining is done by blasting with dynamite and by hoisting the fragments to the top, where it is separated by skilled men for treatment according as it is high or low grade ore. Then it goes through various processes, some being treated in the mill on the ground while some is shipped to the smelter at Copper Cliff. The bullion, in large silver bricks, goes mostly to New York, and