

province in all likelihood possesses vast undeveloped iron resources. It is to be hoped that they will not be tied up like some other of our mineral deposits. In the northern and western parts of the province there is only one iron mine which has been a producer of importance. This deposit owes its development largely to a favorable situation. As facilities for transportation are supplied to more remote fields others will undoubtedly become producers.

Their magnetic properties distinguish iron, nickel and cobalt from all other elements. The iron-bearing formations of Ontario are not less in extent than those of any other part of the earth of equal area. The province has only one competitor as a nickel producer, and her undeveloped resources in this metal appear to be unequalled. The deposits which have been developed form only a small percentage of those known to exist in the Sudbury area.

Cobalt does not come into commerce as a metal, but as an oxide. It is found in Ontario in deposits richer than are known to occur elsewhere. If the promise which the recently discovered deposits give is fulfilled, no country will be able to compete with this province in the production of cobalt. The market for the oxide of the metal is restricted, and our ores being so much richer than those found elsewhere should control the market.

Is there not something strange in the fact that this group of three metals—iron, nickel and cobalt—which possess properties different from all other elements should be found in unsurpassed quantities in this province? Have magnetic influences had something to do with their concentration? Or is it owing to the fact that in our province a large area of the oldest known rocks are exposed? Probably during the early period of the earth's history these magnetic metals occurred abundantly near the surface. More recent formations have been formed by the breaking down of these earlier formed rocks and the metals, especially nickel and cobalt, have been scattered. It may be said that our deposits of the three metals do not all occur in our oldest rocks. The eruptives, however, whether massive or fragmental, which are associ-