

Legislative Assembly of Ontario and of Quebec, distinctly regarded the Grand Trunk as a Canadian enterprise, which was constructed to develop this country and to facilitate the delivery of its produce at a Canadian port for transmission across the Atlantic. To divert such traffic to an American port is a serious blow at the shipping interests of the Dominion. It is making Canada the mere feeder of a foreign port.

ONTARIO MINES.

The development of mining industries in Ontario has proceeded in the last few years with a steadiness that is evidence of the mineral resources of the Province affording a productive field for capital when judiciously invested and economically used by expert operators. The records of mining for centuries bear witness to the business having ever been, what it is to-day, one wholly distinct from any other in its conditions, as there are uncertainties associated with mining which it is physically impossible to foresee, therefore, impossible to provide against. The farmer cultivates his land, sows his seed and his crop comes in the ordinary course of nature. The manufacturer has all the operations of his business under his direct control. So with bankers, merchants, ship-owners, and other business men, they severally are thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances associated with their enterprises. The mine owner is, however, confronted with peculiar conditions, his business is, to extract metallic ore from the ground of the extent of which, of the cost of mining which, he is necessarily very much in the dark, until a considerable amount of capital has been invested. Even then he has no absolute proof that the supply will keep up and the future costs be such as to make the enterprise as profitable as one ought to be which has involved such risks. To secure such exceptional profits as mining ought to yield, has attracted the capital of those who were, or who ought to have been prepared to venture it under these conditions. Capital being now so plentiful, the yield of safe investments is lower than ever before, so that, there had been a demand for mining securities by all classes who had a few dollars to spare. The decline in such securities does not show that mining in Canada is either unprofitable, or declining, it simply is the result of more capital being thrust into mining ventures than the business needed.

The following shows the number of companies incorporated and licensed in Ontario to conduct mining operations, from Confederation to 1899:—

	1868-96.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Total
No. 146.	110	49	81	416	
Capital.	62,529,3790	101,531,000	30,763,000	96,933,994	291,757,384

The number and extent of Ontario mining lands sold and leased in and since 1899, with the amount purchase money paid, or rental, were as follows:—

	1892-96.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Total.
Number sold.....	407	472	292	294	1,465
Acres... "	32,295	29,794	\$19,529	35,049	116,667
Purchase money....	\$72,360	\$59,478	\$40,469	\$75,367	\$247,674
No. leased.....	619	783	506	496	\$2,404
Acres sold.....	61,528	86,014	48,911	63,258	\$259,711
Rentals.....	\$74,598	\$91,662	\$57,493	\$75,608	\$298,762

This gives a total of 376,378 acres in Ontario which in the years 1892 to 1899, were taken up for mining operations. The average size of the locations sold was 76 acres, and of those leased, 108 acres; the aggregate areas given over to mining in Ontario up to last year was 588 square miles. The following gives the value of the mineral production of Ontario for 1892 and 1899:—

	1892.	1899.	Increase
	\$	\$	\$
Building stone, rubble &c.....	880,000	1,041,350	161,350
Cement, lime, bricks, pipes....	1,855,332	2,997,168	1,141,836
Petroleum products.....	1,560,535	2,188,256	627,821
Nickel.....	590,902	526,104	D. 64,798
Copper.....	232,135	176,237	D. 55,898
Gold.....	36,900	423,978	387,078
Silver.....	732	65,575	64,843
Salt.....	162,700	317,412	154,712
Iron ore.....	30,951	30,951
Pig iron.....	808,157	808,157
Zinc, Mica, Tale, &c.....	31,213	214,713	183,500
Total.....	\$5,350,349	8,789,901	3,439,552

The products raised, which are consumed principally by the building trade were greater in 1899 than 1892 by \$1,303,186. In petroleum products, the increase was large. Of nickel and copper, the production was smaller, the existing conditions being unfavourable for such development of nickel mining as the industry demands. The output of gold and silver, though more than in 1892, was too small to take any prominence in the mineral returns of 1899.

The most interesting, as it is also the most important feature in the mineral production of the last year recorded, is the yield of pig iron. In that one line there is the promise of an industry that will, in all probability, add enormously to the wealth of Ontario. The following figures give the details of this industry for 1899 and 1896, with the increases in four years:—

	1899.	1896.	Inc. in 4 years
Ore smelted.....Tons	110,036	51,138	58,898
Coke for fuel..... " "	74,403	30,348	44,055
Pig iron product... " "	64,749	28,302	36,447
Value of output.... " "	\$808,157	\$353,780	\$454,377
Wages paid..... " "	\$79,870	47,000	\$32,870
Men employed " "	200	125	75

The above figures look trifling when compared with the statistics of American or British furnaces, but their significance is not in their size but in the fact of their being the first record of the production of pig iron in Ontario—practically in Canada. The furnaces at Hamilton, Deseronto and Midland are merely "infant industries," as, at one time, were those enormous enterprises in the United States which turn out millions of tons of iron yearly. Nature has been most ungenerous and unthoughtful in giving Ontario such illimitable store of iron ore without placing coal in a convenient locality, as was done in England and