

The best hopes for the New Ontario are no doubt built upon its mineral wealth, the extent and value of which we are only beginning to realize. The rocks of the Huronian and Cambrian systems are found to be mineral-bearing over a wide extent; and from the number of discoveries made every year in new and unexpected localities, we have an assurance that as yet only a little of this hidden treasure has come to be known. Silver Island alone yielded upwards of \$3,000,000.

It is, however, in the Huronian system of rocks that the greatest variety of minerals is to be found. Ores of copper, nickel, iron, gold, and other metals have been discovered, and operations are

the furnaces, was \$2,781,800, or an average of \$695,450 a year.

Iron ore has been found in many localities in the Huronian formation, but the largest and most valuable deposits are believed to be the hematites of the Mattawan.

Gold, however, is found more generally than any of the other metals. It has been discovered in the Sudbury district, in the townships along the valley of the Thessalon, on the north shore of Lake Superior, and in many places throughout that part of the Province which lies within the basin of Nelson River. This latter district embraces the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake and the territory drained by their tributary rivers, as well

as a portion of the slope drained by the English River, and is two hundred miles long by one hundred broad. The discoveries made here within the last three years have raised great expectations, and some of the properties upon which development work has been done are confidently asserted to be rich and valuable. There are now six stamp mills in that country for treating gold ore, with an aggregate capacity of sixty stamps, and more are likely to go up this year if the needed capital is got. Those northern goldfields are certainly as well deserving of the attention of miners and capitalists as many in the United States, in Russia or in Australia. But



CROWN REEF VEIN, SULTANA MINE.

From a photograph by Miss Alice M. D. Fitch.

carried on which promise to establish a large industry. At the Bruce and Wellington mines, north of Lake Huron, copper mining was carried on for about twenty-seven years, ending with 1875, and the value of the output in that time is reported to have been as much as \$7,000,000. At the Sudbury mines, the ores of which yield nickel, copper and some cobalt, the total ore output of the mines for the six years 1890-95 was 539,936 tons, of which there was smelted and reduced to matter in the furnaces 430,539 tons. For the five years 1891-95 this industry paid for labour at the mines and works the large sum of \$1,436,216; and the value of the products of nickel, copper and cobalt for the four years 1892-5, computed at the selling price at

the production of bullion in large and paying quantities seems to be needed to establish confidence in them, and this work remains to be done.

Fifteen years ago (in 1881) New Ontario had seven organized municipalities, with a population of 4,765. In 1895 it had forty-eight municipalities, and a population of 36,000. This is some progress, but it ought to be far more. The two things most needed to open up the New Ontario are population and capital. British capital and emigration are turned towards the United States, in many parts of which a British citizen cannot hold a foot of ground in his own name; and towards the Transvaal, where he has no civil rights, and pays the bulk of the taxes without even the privilege of edu-