

MINING IN ONTARIO.

IT is often said that Canada is a country without a history and there is a sense in which this is true, however unpleasant it may be to have it told us by old-world men whose countries have a history which dates back to the early centuries of the Christian era. The sister Province of Quebec can boast of annals which begin to show the rime of age, for some of them relate to stirring events which happened three and a half centuries ago. From the days of Cartier down to the days of Montcalm there is an historic period of great interest, as the pages of Parkman very clearly show. But the Province of Ontario is for the most part less than half a century out of the woods, and its first century under constitutional government is not yet completed. Almost the only struggle in which its people have engaged has been with Nature, but in subduing the forest and changing the face of the country into cultivated fields they have shown the possession of British pluck and intelligence no less unmistakeably than their forefathers have done in enterprises which have won renown in every region of the earth. The first object of the immigrant was to provide shelter, food and clothing for himself and his family, and to this end he began with felling the forest, burning off the timber and getting the land into shape to grow cereals, roots and grasses. The country was well suited to this kind of enterprise, and the settler has been well repaid for his labors. It did not for many years occur to him that any other industry was deserving of his attention, with perhaps the single exception of utilising the trees upon his land by converting them into lumber or timber instead of burning them into ashes. But as the area of farm land was extended, as settlement increased and population grew, the need of diversity in pursuits became more obvious, one new industry after another was started, the foundations of towns and cities were laid, exchange of produc-