

"This part of Canada is known as the Canadian Shield," Mr. Simpson told the children. "More than a million years ago, a giant glacier pushed down from the Arctic over all the trees and shrubs that existed then. When, many years later, the huge masses of ice moved northward, they left the soil thin and the rocks protruding from the surface. The Shield contains fabulous mineral wealth under the rock, including copper, lead, iron, nickel, gold, silver, and uranium."

"I suppose there are mines everywhere, then?" asked Paul.

"Yes, there are quite a number of busy mining towns just north of here. But there is still a lot of mineral wealth not yet discovered, and that's why prospectors go out searching for it every year. The Shield extends far beyond Ontario. It covers Quebec and Labrador to the east, and extends across the northwest of Canada to the Arctic."

"Some day I want to be a prospector," broke in Douglas. "I'm going north to make my fortune."

"Hey, that sounds great!" exclaimed Paul. "I wouldn't mind coming along with you."

"Well, if you're serious about it, you won't have any trouble making a prosperous career out of hunting for minerals," Mr. Simpson declared. "Why, the development of Canada's North — not only Northern Ontario but Northern Quebec, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon — has hardly begun. The future of Canada's industry is going to depend to a very large extent on how fast we get on with the opening up of the North, right up to the Arctic Circle and beyond."