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It is doubtful if there is general appreciation of the importance of the mining industry to a new country and its development. In the past Governments have thought too much in terms of agriculture. The attitude too much has been to tolerate mining simply because it brought ready money in the way of royalties and other forms of taxation. As a matter of fact this North Land would never have reached its present state of development without the noteworthy assistance of the mining industry. Mining is well termed a basic industry. A writer recently in the Sudbury Star goes even farther than suggesting that the settlement of the North Land depends very largely upon mining. He emphasizes "Gold" as Canada's best force for immigration. He points out that it is by no means a recent discovery that Canada needs a vastly increased population, and that it is settlers on the land that are principally required. There are periodical fluctuations in the interest of the public in this all-important question, and the action (or rather reaction) of our public administrators fluctuates accordingly. At present we are on the top of a wave of interest, and our public officials, after years of inattention, are preparing to conduct an active campaign designed to help in populating the open spaces of our land. The effort put forth by

to clear and till the arable land round about rather than to work in the mines. Then the operation of a group of productive mines ordinarily induces the building of a railway, the prime essential for settlement in these days. The mines usually provide work for settlers at certain seasons of the year, particularly during the years of their first development, and, if they are long-lived find a recruiting ground for young miners in the farming community. The mining camps provide one of the best possible markets for the products of near-by farms.

This intimate relationship of mining and land settlement, presupposes the occurrence, side by side, of workable mineral deposits and arable land. The two are not associated invariably; but in Canada there are few mining districts where at least small numbers of settlers cannot gain a good livelihood. Many of the fertile valleys of British Columbia, now adding largely to the wealth of the province and of the Dominion, would still be uncultivated were it not for the mines on the hillsides above. It is doubtful whether there would be now any settlement whatever in Northern Manitoba were it not for the promise there of mineral production.

It is in Northern Ontario and Quebec that we have the clearest demonstration of the efficacy of mining activity in promoting settlement, as well as the greatest opportunity for its profitable application. For four hundred miles—the width of the province of Saskatchewan—the National Transcontinental Railway runs through the Great Clay Belt. This belt of land is arable throughout the larger part of its extent—an area twice the size of

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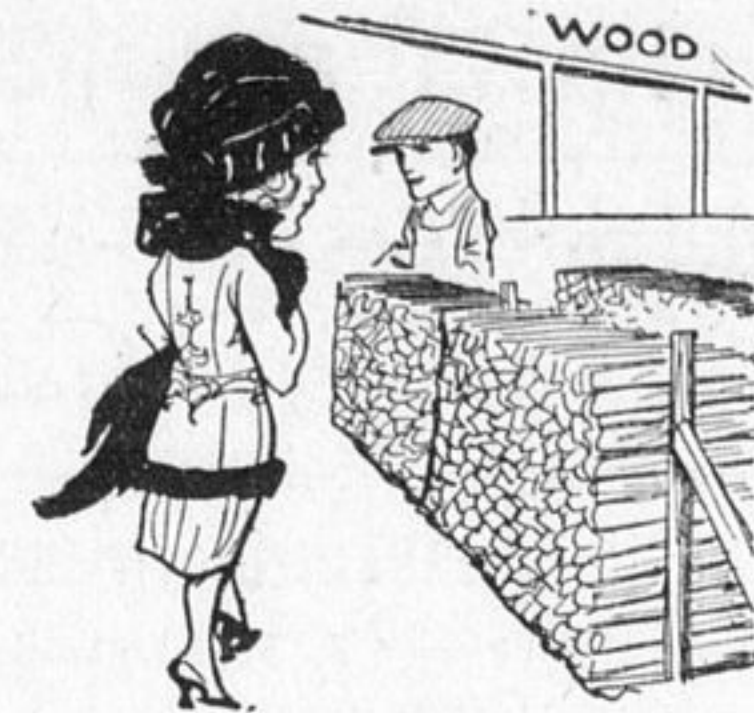
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FIRE-SWEPT AREA NEEDS HELP

Many weeks after the big fire the people slept on boards and in a few cases mattresses were available. The picture shows the first beds to be given out at one of the Relief Committee's stations. Hundreds of families in Northern Ontario needs beds, clothing and food.

a handful of public-spirited Canadians in high position on behalf of this problem, backed as it has been by the public press, gives promise of bearing fruit in the near future.

The Canadian public is being informed not only of the country's need but of the various ways and means of meeting this end. On one point, however, public speakers and the public press have, in general, failed to make clear the facts. The importance of an active mining industry in aiding a rapid and permanent settlement is seldom gauged at its true value. Contemporary events, as well as the history of a century back, demonstrate that the establishment of a mining industry, and particularly of a good mining industry, is one of the surest means of attracting settlers to the vicinity.

The reasons for the potency of a gold camp in inducing settlement are not far to seek. First of all, the very name of gold attracts men irresistibly, and among those that approach the spot where it is found, many are fated

the prairie part of Manitoba. At numerous points throughout gold has been discovered, and at two points on its southern edge, astride the Ontario Government Railway, productive camps have been established—Porcupine and Kirkland. There promises to be another gold camp sixty miles to the east, in Quebec, which will draw the railway northward from Temiskaming to the Transcontinental Railway thus intersecting Quebec's portion of the Great Clay Belt.

This conjunction of arable land and gold deposits is a fortunate one for Ontario and Quebec, though it is a nuisance to the miner. Throughout the whole of the gold-bearing area the prospector is hard put to make a "find." That so much has been found in spite of this disability speaks well for what intensive development will disclose. Meantime the clearing and settling of the clay belt will proceed at a pace commensurate with the growth of the mines. The value of this settlement will, in the long run, far exceed the value of what the mines will produce; but to the mines must be given the credit for a part of this value.

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