

Prize Winning Essays on the Resources of Canada

ESSAYS BY ENTRANCE CLASS PUPILS WINNING PRIZES IN ESSAY COMPETITION INAUGURATED BY TIMMINS BRANCH OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE.

Last week The Advance published the prize winning essays by the High School pupils of Timmins in the recent competition inaugurated by the Timmins Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire.

This week the prize-winning essays by pupils of the Entrance Classes are published.

Next week the prize-winning essays in the third of the series (those by the pupils of the Junior Classes of Timmins Public and Separate schools) will be published.

The Entrance Classes wrote on the subject, "The Natural Resources of Canada." There were over 65 pupils competing and all the papers were up to a high standard. The following are the three papers selected for first, second and third place, respectively:

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY

(By Tessie Baderski,
Timmins Separate School.)

- Plan:
- I. Canada Past.
 - II. Canada Present.
 - III. Agriculture.
 - IV. Forests.
 - V. Mining.
 - VI. Fishing.

When Canada was founded by Jacques Cartier in the year 1534, it was inhabited by Red Men called Indians. Canada was then a vast country of uncultivated plains, perfect for rests and lonely mountains, etc. Here and there stood a small collection of Indian lodges surrounded by a strip

of cleared land growing corn and pumpkins.

To-day, from ocean to ocean, Canada has about nine million people. Canada contains nine provinces and two territories. The uncultivated plains are giving place to well-cultivated farms and smiling homes. The rivers and lakes are thronged with the ships of busy and growing commerce. Large districts that were only a wilderness of rocks and waste are now yielding vast treasures of gold, silver, nickel, copper, plumbago and other riches of the mine. Canada has become one of the richest and largest of the great colonies and is the granary of Great Britain.

The fertile soil is found almost everywhere throughout the Dominion, and the favourable climate for such occupations as grain-growing, dairying, stock-raising, and fruit-growing, naturally make agriculture the chief industry in Canada. Still millions of acres of good land have not been touched by the plough. The great Clay Belt to the south of James Bay is a region of 16,000,000 acres of fine farming land, which, when cleared of its heavy growth of pine and spruce and poplar, and brought under the plough, will easily support a population as large as the present population of the whole Province.

The wealth of Canada lies in her forests in several distinct regions. One of these regions is known as the southern forest region and extends from

Western Ontario to the St. Lawrence River and Atlantic Oceans, and stretches northward from the boundary to the fiftieth parallel in Western Ontario and to the forty-ninth parallel in Central Ontario and in Quebec. The principal trees that grow in this region are maple (the emblem of our dear Canada), beech, ash, birch, pine, spruce, tamarack and cedar. North of the southern forest region the trees are the spruce, Banksian, pine, tamarack and poplar. North of the densely wooded forest region is the northern forest area, not densely wooded. Throughout this region the hardy trees, such as the spruce, larch, balsam, poplar and canoe birch, occur, although their growth is stunted. In the forest region is the Cordilleran or western forest region. It extends from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. In this region the common forest trees are the Douglas fir, British Columbia cedar, black pine and White spruce. The Lumbering industry is second only to agriculture in importance in Canada.

The most important minerals that are found in Canada are:—coal, copper, silver, gold, nickel, lead, cement and asbestos. The vast mining regions lie chiefly in the east and in the west. Coal is mined in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Northern Ontario. The world obtains its supply of nickel from Northern Ontario. It is said that mines of Ontario contain nine-tenths of the silver of the world. The vast gold mines are in the Yukon Territory. Timmins was only a little town at the beginning of 1910. It is now one of the greatest towns of Ontario for the production of gold. Its large mine, known as the Hollinger Mine, is the greatest gold producer of the world in this present year. This mine up to 1922 produced bullion worth fifty million dollars. The Hollinger mine produces about \$9,000

worth of gold every day. (Several pupils quoted Hollinger production as \$9000 in gold per day. This is incorrect. The average daily production last year was close to \$35,000, the daily tonnage averaging 4907 and the average grade being \$8.53.)

The most important fish are found in shallow cold water where food is abundant. The lobster is the most valuable fish, although the salmon, herring, mackerel, and halibut are also important. The salmon and halibut are the only large fish utilized on a very large scale.

SECOND PRIZE

(By Willie Valenois, Timmins Public School.)

Canada consists of nine provinces and two territories. It is one of the world's richest countries, although it is yet undeveloped.

Canada has possibilities for farming, because of the fertile soil and good climate. In the prairie provinces of Canada the world's best hard wheat is grown. Barley, oats, hay and vegetables are grown in large quantities. The chief crops of Ontario are hay, carrots, wheat and barley. Large quantities of potatoes and cabbage are grown in Prince Edward Island. The principal crops of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are hay, oats, carrots, buckwheat and vegetables. Hay and oats grow luxuriantly in British Columbia. Canada's orchards are in the Niagara Peninsula, in Nova Scotia and in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

The world's best fishing grounds are on the east and west coasts of Canada. Salmon canning is a very important industry in British Columbia. The only sardine canning factory in Canada is in New Brunswick. The Restigouche River is a noted salmon and trout stream. The chief fishes caught in Ontario are cod, mackerel, lobster and pike. Large quantities of cod, haddock, pike and salmon are caught in Quebec. The principal fish that are caught in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are:—herring, lobster, mackerel, cod and pickerel.

Ontario's greatest natural resource lies in minerals. Gold, silver, copper, lead and nickel are found in abundance. One of the world's largest gold mines is in Northern Ontario. Quebec supplies the world with asbestos. Coal is found in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Manitoba. The principal minerals found in New Brunswick are lead, copper, natural gas and zinc.

Lumbering is a very important industry. (Continued on page 6)

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