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Outlook for Mining in This Province is Very Promising

Ontario Supplies Almost Half the Mineral Wealth of Canada, Says Minister of Mines. Ontario's Gold Output Now Twice That of Mexico. Second Largest Producer of Gold in the British Empire.

Any pronouncement by Hon. Chas. McCrea, whether it be an address or an essay, is of special interest and importance because the Minister of Mines for Ontario, is so well versed in mining matters and dresses his thoughts in most attractive garb. His articles on the North Land, and the many addresses he has given on mining subjects have undoubtedly been of the greatest service in spreading the truth about the mining industry of this North Land. Last week brief reference was made to the special mining issue of The Ottawa Journal. A chief feature of that number was an article by Hon. Mr. McCrea. This article is worthy of the widest publicity and the closest attention. In part, Hon. Mr. McCrea says:—

"The material strength of a nation lies in its resources. The more extensive and varied these are, the greater is the part they play in the upbuilding of the economic and social structure. Canada possesses practically all of the elements required for this process of upbuilding. We have far-reaching reaches of arable land, this year provided a most abundant harvest. We have extensive forests of pine, fir, pulpwood and hard woods. We have sea and inland fisheries which never fail. We have thousands of tumbling waterfalls ready to be harnessed for the production of power. We have a vast amount of mineral wealth stored by nature in the earth's crust, some of it now being developed, and much more awaiting discovery and utilization.

"Each of the provinces makes its own distinctive contribution to the sum of Canadian resources. All contain land unsurpassed in fertility, some in larger measure than others. The forests of the eastern provinces are matched by those on the Pacific coast. East and west gather the harvest of the sea, and the central provinces that of the inland lakes. The immense volume of water moving through these fresh-water seas, over the falls of Niagara and the rapids of the St. Lawrence, together with the host of rivers tributary to the same system, and those which bring the drainage of the Rocky Mountains and the western prairies to the ocean, furnish vast potentialities in the way of water power. In minerals, practically every important substance,—coal, iron, gold, silver, copper, lead, nickel, zinc, etc.—is found in Canada, most of them in profusion. Of non-metallic products highly useful in the arts and industries, there is no lack.

"Among the provinces, Ontario has the largest production of minerals supplying 40.59 per cent. of the total Canadian output during 1924.

"The pre-Cambrian formations so largely developed in the northern and north-western parts of the province, contain great metallic wealth. Take, for instance, gold. This precious metal is found in many parts of the province, but only with the discovery of the deposits at Porcupine and later at Kirkland Lake did Ontario definitely enter the list of gold-producing communities.

"In 1909 the first prospectors uncovered the virgin veins and masses of quartz at Porcupine, and in 1911 the mines began to turn out bullion. The initial yield was naturally small, only some \$42,000. The stream thus started has swollen year by year until in 1924 the production amounted to over \$25,000,000. This year, 1925, it is likely to be \$30,000,000. What this means may be appreciated when it is stated that this sum is nearly double the output of Mexico and is much more than one-half that of the whole of the United States. The total value of the gold produced in Ontario up to the end of 1924 was \$154,000,000. Out of this sum was paid in dividends over \$40,000,000. By the end of 1925 this province will have equalled the famous Yukon in the total production of gold and the stream instead of diminishing will probably see great future increase.

"The chief Porcupine producers—Hollinger, Dome, McIntyre—form a magnificent group, the first named being one of the great gold mines of the world. The properties at Kirkland Lake—Teck-Hughes, Lake Shore, Wright-Hargreaves, and others—are bidding fair to emulate Porcupine.

"There are several other properties which have just begun or are about to become actual producers and it not to be doubted that the great pre-Cambrian stretches of Northern Ontario, regarded by no less an authority than Dr. W. G. Miller, late provincial geologist, as the most promising field for prospectors yet left untouched in the world, will as time goes on disclose other Porcupine and Kirkland Lakes."

Mr. McCrea then reviews the silver production of the Province, and also deals in detail with the nickel industry, concluding his article as follows: "The outlook for mining in Ontario was never better. It is not too much to say that the mining industry of this province, and of the other provinces, form one of the cornerstones upon which our national prosperity

must rest. The great hinterland of Ontario has given an earnest of its possibilities, and beckons the prospector of this and coming generations to come and uncover her hidden treasures.

"Particularly at this time, it is a happy circumstance that Canada is making so substantial a contribution to the world's stock of gold. The cost of production has congealed the flow of this metal from many parts of the earth, which formerly supplied it in liberal quantity, and probably also some of these sources have been depleted, if not, altogether exhausted. The United States, as a result of the war, has become the world's creditor, and since she strives as a matter of policy to reduce her imports of manufactured goods from other countries to the lowest possible point, the accumulation of war debts owing by European nations must under present conditions, be in large part discharged by payments in gold. Canada's own debt is sufficiently heavy to stimulate to the full production of gold from her mines, and they are responding well to the demand.

"The resumption of the gold standard in England means that gold supplies must be maintained there in sufficient value to support it. Next to the Rand, Canada is the largest producer of gold in the Empire, and the increasing output from this country, especially from the Province of Ontario, points to the desirability of our gold mines being developed by British and also by Canadian capital. At present a large proportion of the money invested comes from the United States and there is no disposition to shut it out, as Ontario invites capital from the world. But it is being asked in London, why should English investors, who have supplied immense sums of money for mines in foreign countries, not participate more freely than they do in the development of Canada's gold-mining industry? If British capital, why not also Canadian? Government bonds are good securities but do not provide a return to be compared with the profits of a good producing gold mine. Even now considerable domestic money is at work in Canadian mines, but a still more hearty participation in the development of the essentially basic industry of mining would be in keeping with the growing importance of Canada among the Commonwealths of the Empire, and would show to the world that we have confidence in the riches, as well as in the future of our country.

"Let investments be guided by intelligence and careful investigation made in advance. If the same prudence be observed in mining as in other business, success will not be wanting."

COMRADE'S GUN SAVED MAN HOOKED ON HORNS OF MOOSE

Below is reproduced a news item displayed in The Toronto Star last week. It refers to Skead as being in "the French River District." It is to be hoped that the article itself is nearer the truth than the distance between Skead and the French River. Still, The Star is getting a little closer all the time. Here is the gallant epic from The Star:—

"A wild ride on the horns of a moose for forty or fifty yards was the thrilling experience of a hunter in the French river region last weekend. It came to a sudden stop when a bullet from the rifle of a companion killed the animal just as it was tearing into the thick bush. The hunter was thrown clear of the horns and escaped serious injury.

"This first dramatic story of the hunting season was brought to Toronto by Jack Crighton, 12 Withrow Avenue, son of Capt. George Crighton of the mayor's office. He came home yesterday after three weeks sojourn in the wilds with headquarters at Skead Camp, northwest of Englehart.

"It was below Skead Camp, towards Larder Lake, that the moose kidnapped the hunter." Mr. Crighton told The Star. "The hunter invited it. He was standing near the water edge giving a moose call when the answer came in a hurry from close beside him, the moose emerging from the bush about fifteen yards away at the charge. It was impossible for him to dodge and the moose just hooked him up on to the horns and kept on going. He let out a horrified yell and it was lucky there was somebody handy who had a gun and knew how to shoot. He would have been torn to pieces if the moose had been able to get a little further into the bush."

"Mr. Crighton and his party did not seek big game, but fish. "The largest one taken in our party weighed eleven pounds," he said, "and we got several weighing over seven pounds."

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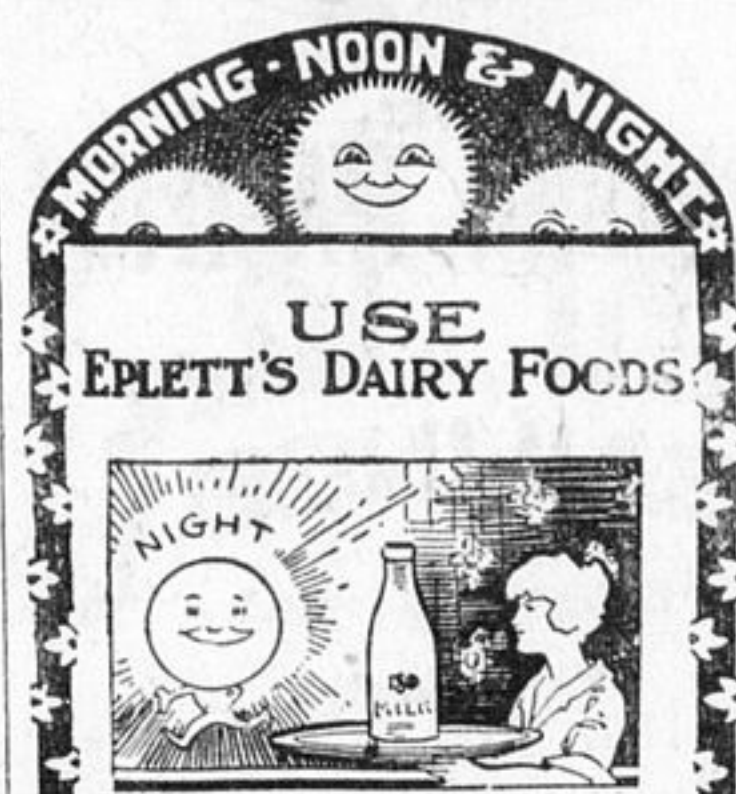
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