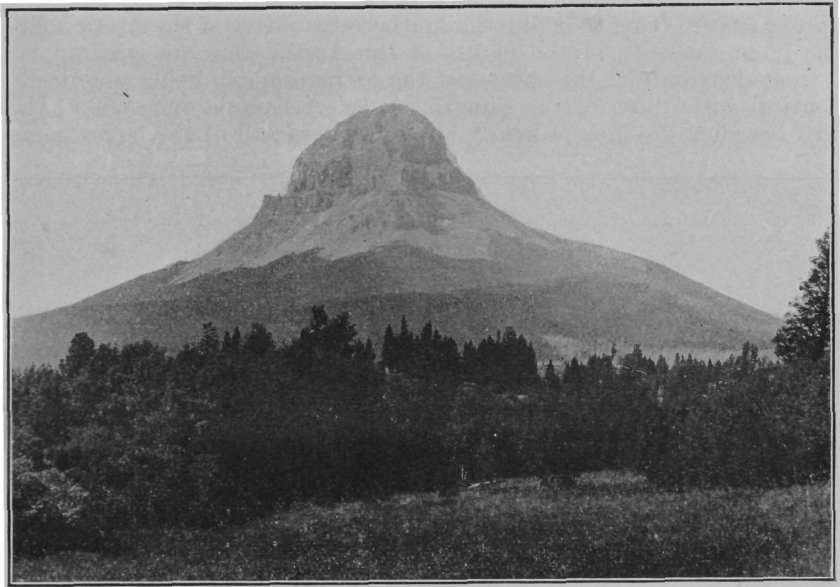


## GEOLOGY AND ECONOMIC MINERALS.

touched. Probably not one-fifth may be said to have been prospected at all, not one-twentieth prospected in detail, and not one area, however small, completely tested. The chief productions of the lode mines of the Cordilleran belt in Canada are copper, gold, silver and lead. Yukon is noted for its production of placer gold. In addition to these minerals there are, in this portion of the country, enormous resources of coal of excellent quality, varying from lignites to anthracite, and conveniently distributed. Only the coal areas of the southern part of the province and a few small areas on the Telkwa, Skeena and Nass rivers and on the Yukon have as yet been examined.



CROW'S NEST MOUNTAIN

Great unprospected areas are known to contain, in places, coal formations, and will no doubt when explored add greatly to the present known reserves. The coal production is not large as compared with the supply ; but a large increase in production may be expected in the near future, as these are the best steaming and coking coals in the west, and railway facilities will be provided to supply the transcontinental railways and the great smelters in the northern States.

Upon the knowledge already gleaned concerning the economic deposits of the Dominion by geological exploration, by prospecting and by actual mining, it is safe to predict that the mineral industry will become a very great and valuable one. Its development will render essential a close study of the geology of the country. The geological field in Canada is as rich and inviting as the mining. Perhaps half the rock history of the world is written in the pre-Cambrian, and it is of this portion that most remains to be deciphered. Since the greatest spread of these old rocks occurs in Canada, much of this work will fall to Canadian