

A brief summary of the characteristics of the main natural divisions of the country will at least suggest the possibilities of great expansion in the mineral development of the country.

Appalachian Region.—The southeastern portion of Quebec, together with the Maritime provinces, forms the northeastern extension of the Appalachian Mountain system. The Appalachian region is characterized by rock formations, ranging from pre-Cambrian to Carboniferous, that are typically disturbed and thrown into a succession of folds. In Canada the Appalachian extension is found to possess many of the minerals which have placed some of the eastern States in the foremost rank of mineral and industrial districts of the world. Important deposits of coal, iron, and gold are mined in Nova Scotia. Of lesser but still considerable importance, are the gypsum, stone and building material industries; manganese, antimony, tripolite and barite are also mined, and some attention has been paid to copper. The principal minerals of New Brunswick are gypsum, iron, coal, stone for building purposes and grindstones, clays, antimony, manganese, mineral water and oil-bearing shales. Natural gas is also an important product. The chief asbestos mines of the world are situated in southeastern Quebec, and there are important deposits of chrome iron ore, copper and pyrite. Iron ores and gold also occur.

Lowlands of the St. Lawrence Valley.—The southern portion of Ontario and the valley of the St. Lawrence are very similar geologically to the state of New York, and consist mainly of flat-lying Palæozoic rocks. The mineral products are the same, viz., clay, cement and other building materials, petroleum, natural gas, salt, gypsum and other non-metallic minerals.

Laurentian Plateau.—North of the valley of the St. Lawrence, from Newfoundland to beyond the lake of the Woods, and enclosing Hudson bay like a huge V, is an area of pre-Cambrian rocks, estimated to cover 2,000,000 square miles, or over one-half of Canada. Over the greater portion reconnaissance surveys only have been made, and the southern fringe of it alone may be said to be known, and of this fringe only a portion has been prospected. These rocks of the pre-Cambrian are remarkable for the variety of useful and valuable minerals they contain. Iron, copper, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, platinum, lead, zinc, arsenic, pyrite, mica, apatite, graphite, feldspar, quartz, corundum, talc, actinolite, the rare earths, ornamental stones and gems, building materials, etc., are all found, and are, or have been profitably mined. Most of the other minerals, both common and rare, that are used in the arts have been found. Diamonds have not been located, but from their discovery in glacial drift from this area it is altogether probable that they occur.

A tongue of these pre-Cambrian rocks extends into New York state, which supports some large and varied mineral industries. Another extension crosses over from Canada into Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In it are located the Michigan copper mines and the