

great Lake Superior iron ranges. Along the southern edge of the pre-Cambrian in Canada, the only portion that has yet received any prospecting, there are already known copper and gold deposits in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the gold ranges of the lake of the Woods, the silver of Thunder bay, a succession of iron ranges extending from Minnesota for hundreds of miles to Quebec, copper rocks of Michipicoten and Bruce mines, the Sudbury copper-nickel deposits (probably the largest high grade ore bodies in the world), the Montreal river and Cobalt silver areas, the world-famous Porcupine and other gold deposits, the corundum deposits of eastern Ontario, the magnetites of eastern Ontario and Quebec and their large apatite-mica deposits. In the far north about Coronation gulf, are rocks that will warrant prospecting, since they bear native copper very similar to the great Michigan occurrences.

Interior Plain.—The greater portions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, that lie outside of the pre-Cambrian, and the province of Alberta, are pre-eminently agricultural; but in addition to furnishing an important market for the product of the mines they will have a large output of non-metallic minerals. The Interior plain is underlain for the most part by sedimentary rocks, chiefly of Cretaceous age, containing coal, building stones, clays, some of them high grade, and cement materials. Natural gas over wide areas and under great pressure has been tapped, and there is every indication of a large oil field in the northern portion, at least, of Alberta, and some oil has been encountered in the southwest. The lower sandstones of the Cretaceous along the Athabaska river, where they come to the surface, are for miles saturated with bitumen. These tar sands will probably average 12 per cent in maltha or asphaltum. Recent prospecting has discovered oil at Pouce Coupé on the Peace river, and at Fort Norman, on the Mackenzie river, near the Arctic circle. At other points in the Devonian rocks of the Mackenzie basin oil indications occur. The lignites of the eastern plains are useful for local purposes, and highly bituminized coals are found as the mountains are approached. Vast areas are underlain by lignite beds in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the reserves of bituminous coal in Alberta are enormous. Gold is found in a number of the rivers coming from the mountains. Clay ironstone occurs in many parts of the northwest, and will in time be utilized. Salt and gypsum also occur.

Cordilleran Belt.—The Cordilleran belt in South America, in Mexico, and in the Western States, is recognized as one of the greatest mining regions of the world, noted principally for its wealth in gold, silver, copper and lead. The Cordilleras stand unparalleled in the world for the continuity, extent and variety of their mineral resources. In Canada and in Alaska this belt maintains its reputation, although in both, for the greater part, it is unprospected. In Canada the belt has a length of 1,300 miles and a width of 400 miles. It is pre-eminently a great mining region. Its rocks range from the oldest formations to the youngest; vulcanism and mountain building processes have repeatedly been active.