£80,000,000—£20,000,000 in gold from the Yukon within the last ten years; £50,000,000 in gold (placer and lode), silver, lead, copper, and coal from British Columbia; another £10,000,000 in gold and coal from the eastern provinces.

Only one-tenth of Canada's mineral regions have yet been explored. All Labrador, all Keewatin, all Mackenzie River, the most of the Peace River and Athabasca, nine-tenths of British Columbia and the Yukon are still a terra incognita for the prospector. What these unknown mineralised regions may yield may only be inferred from discoveries daily being made. Two cases will illustrate—the uncovering of nickel and cobalt beds in Northern Ontario.

For years anybody who has travelled over the iron wastes between the Ottawa River and the Great Lakes, must have felt convinced that mines would some day be discovered under those leagues upon leages of weathered, mineral-stained rocks east and west of Port Arthur. When the railway was cut through the rocks at Sudbury, ore beds were discovered. They were thought to be copper, and actually bonded over to American capitalists as such. What was the amazement of the different mining companies when returns came back from the first shipments to learn that the mines were not copper, but nickel—the largest ore-beds of that rare metal in the world. How the mines of these disappointed capitalists were first exploited and finally opened is a romance by itself. Only one other country has such a supply of the metal most needed in war for vessels and gun works —France, in the mines at New Caledonia. There was the usual long period of experiment and discouragement and outlay, and, if governmental returns be correct, only £1,800,000 worth of the nickel has been mined to the present time; but when the great gun works of Europe heard of the find, and that the deposit had been proved, they offered to buy over the entire output of the mines to all time. To the American public, interest in the discovery centres round the fact that America now has an inexhaustible supply of the metal alloy for armaments that is almost ball-proof. The discovery has revolutionised armour-plating for the American navy.

The discovery of cobalt came in almost the same way. The Temiscamingue railway construction gangs at the headquarters of the Ottawa turned up ore. It was thought to be low-grade silver or copper. A specimen was sent to Toronto, 300 miles away, for analysis. Meanwhile, a long-headed young fellow, who had been earning a pittance at school-teaching and surveying in the region, took himself off for a hurried course in mineralogy. The official report on the specimen was so fabulous that the people of Ontario would not believe it. Ontario had been terribly bitten in the two mining booms, first in Kootenay, then in the Yukon. In both Kootenay and the Yukon Americans were on the spot first. They had proved the mines to be producers, and had skimmed the cream of the profits before conservative Canadians would invest. The consequences were that when the Canadian capitalist did invest, he found many of the Kootenay and Yukon mines worked out. Instead of cream, he found skim-milk, and he at once proceeded to recoup himself by putting on a brave face. He boomed his worked-out mine, floated the venture with an absurdly big capital, and sold enough cheap shares to pay himself for his own loss, with the result that almost every servant girl in Ontario contributed hard-earned wages to these sharks.

So when the official report stated that the specimen of ore was cobalt-silver that would run from £140 to £160 a ton, Eastern Canada turned a deaf ear. What with Kootenay and Yukon, it had had enough of mines for some time. History repeated itself. Americans rushed in during the fall of 1905 at the rate of 1,100 a day. When actual ore shipments were made to New York and New Jersey and actual cash sent back in cheques of £60,000 and £80,000 for a load—the ore running £140 and £160 a

WINTER IN THE SELKIRKS.