

SCIENCE

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MINING IN CANADA

CANADA covers the northern half of the North American continent, having an area of 3,729,665 square miles. About 700,000 square miles of this great area are covered with rich fertile soil, 900,000 square miles with forest, and 120,000 square miles with lake, etc., while over about 200,000 square miles the surface is buried under a thick blanket of moss. The remainder of the country, as well as some of the forested area, is rocky, and a study of how this rocky country should best be utilized for the benefit of mankind, is one of the greatest research problems of this age, a problem beside which most of those undertaken in our small laboratories dwarfs into insignificance.

The prospector and miner are the men who at the present time are doing most to work out the solution of this problem. In their work they have been assisted for the past eighty years by the Geological Survey of Canada, one of the earliest scientific research bureaus to be established on this Continent, and also, but in later years, by the Geological and Mining Bureaus of the various provinces.

In the 16th century when the gold and silver mines of South America and Mexico were attracting the attention of many of the leading men of the different nations of Europe, Canada did not entirely escape attention, for in 1576, three years after the rich gold mines of Minas Geraes of Brazil had been discovered, Martin Frobisher, one of the great sailors of the "Elizabethan Era," sailed from the Port of London in search of a northwest passage north of the Continent of America to Asia, where fabulous stores of metallic riches were believed to exist. He did not get half way to his destination, but was stopped by ice in a bay on the east side of Baffin Island, whence he returned to England. After his return a

¹ Address of the president and vice-president of Section M, American Association for the Advancement of Science, December, 1922.

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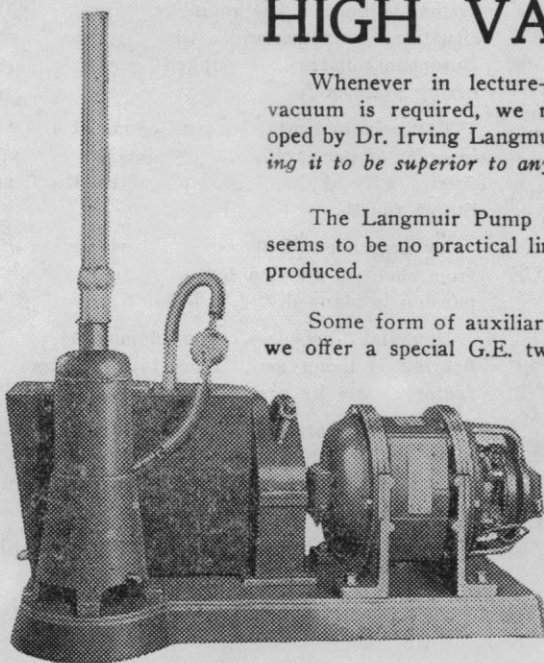
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