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MINING IN CANADA IN 1915

Canada is making new records in mineral production and the outlook for 1916 is very promising. This is a pleasing contrast with the conditions a year ago, when the disorganization of industry which followed the outbreak of war resulted in a severe though brief check to the ever-increasing mineral output of the Dominion.

In Canada, as in other countries the production in the early months of the war was small. Production of most metals might have been increased, but, owing to the general disorganization of business with consequent temporary falling off in demand for mine products, many mines were closed and many others operated at half capacity. The demand for war munitions during 1915 and the increase in general business in the latter part of 1915 created an unprecedented market for most metals.

The year 1915, in spite of the low output in the early months, shows an increase in production of metals in Canada. Non-metals are, as a rule, not in as great demand as before the war.

Ontario for 1915 shows a greatly increased output of gold, nickel and copper, and a substantial decrease in silver. The estimated value of the production for 1915 is: Gold, \$8,000,000; silver, \$10,750,000; nickel, \$7,200,000, and copper, \$2,700,000. The output of nickel-copper matte is being very greatly increased and it is expected that the December output will be over 7,000 tons matte. The iron ore production will be slightly greater than in 1914, but the Moose Mountain mine has been closed down. Petroleum output is less than in 1914, but natural gas production is larger. Structural materials are not in as good demand as in 1914. Pyrite shipments have increased. The operation of a graptolite property in Eastern Ontario has been successfully begun during the year.

Alberta coal production in 1915 will show a decrease of about 500,000 tons, being estimated at 3,250,000 tons as compared with 3,743,672 tons for 1914. In the last quarter of 1915 conditions are much improved and output is being increased.

Quebec in 1915 shows an increase in production of metals and decrease in non-metals. The latter make up a very large part of Quebec's output and consequently the total production shows a considerable falling off as compared with 1914. After a period of dullness the asbestos market has improved greatly and the latter part of 1915 has seen a return to normal conditions in the asbestos district.

The great demand for chromite resulted in operations being resumed at several chromite properties in the Coleraine-Black Lake region. Copper and pyrite