

### THE DOMINION.

During 1907 every mining Province of the Dominion held its own and three, at least, showed new promise.

Nova Scotia's gold industry is just about where it was in 1906. In coal mining there have been large new activities, but a slightly decreased production. The acquisition of the Lingan areas by the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, and the purchase of the Gowrie and Blockhouse coal mines and lands by the North Atlantic Collieries, are perhaps the most noteworthy developments. Owing to labor trouble at Springhill the Cumberland Coal & Railway Company was shut out of the market for some months. In attempting to fill the gap several smaller collieries were given a better grip on life. There is very little of moment transpiring in the mining of other minerals.

At Lepreaux and Bathurst, in the Province of New Brunswick, iron ore deposits are being opened up by the Dominion Iron & Steel Company and by the Drummond Mines Company respectively. The Bathurst ore bodies are of unusual promise. It is easily conceivable that New Brunswick may, within the next few years, begin the production of iron and steel.

Quebec counts upon largely increased asbestos output for 1908. The selling price has gone up and the industry is in excellent shape. Chrome ore mining is giving encouraging results. Mica, ochre, copper and iron ore are the objects of less attention. But graphite is engaging capital and molybdenite may soon follow. Whilst the year 1907 has outshone 1906, it will in turn be eclipsed by the present year.

The Ontario districts of Cobalt, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Rainy River have all been the scenes of increased activity during 1907. Public interest of course is more or less centered in Cobalt. Yet there are indications of a revival of silver mining in Western Ontario. The price of silver is, naturally, the controlling factor in the situation. However, improvements in methods and machinery, together with transportation facilities, have very materially lowered the point where profits begin.

Cobalt is rapidly approaching the stage when costs will be reduced to a business-like level. The past year has been a period of profound change and transition. Market manipulation and fraudulent promotions are, so far as the camp is concerned, almost things of the past. The labor difficulties were met and overcome by concerted action on the part of the operators. But the issue of the struggle might have been different were it not that public sympathy was with the operators. The wave of depression, bringing with it scarcity of employment, also helped to decide the dispute in favor of the operators. At present Cobalt is taking life very seriously. The output of the camp has grown by leaps and bounds. Concentrators, stamp mills and excellent power equipments are rapidly coming into commission. Three or four smelters at various distances, but all in Ontario,

will gradually take care of a fair proportion of the ore. Cobalt is safely established.

The blowing-in of the Atikokan furnace at Port Arthur was a landmark of the past year. Other events that will influence the future of the Province were the visit of the American Institute of Mining Engineers and of several parties of British journalists. We may also class amongst the most important features of the year the inception of the anti-wildcat campaign by THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL. Public opinion has been aroused, Government assistance has not been sparingly given, and it is improbable that Ontario will again be the happy hunting ground of cheap fakirs.

Alberta, possessing at this moment twenty-eight producing coal mines, has merely touched the fringe of her limitless coal fields. The past year has witnessed active prospecting, development, and, lately, an extension of the market for the Province's output.

Saskatchewan owns and operates a coal mine of her own. Otherwise we hear very little about that Province's minerals.

British Columbia, whose estimated output shows a net increase of \$4,636,625 over 1906, has made huge gains in coal production. The estimated increase in value of her coal output is \$3,190,000—an almost startling figure when all conditions are considered. This increase will be even more marked during 1908, as the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company is putting up equipment whereby its output will be doubled, and later in the year the C. P. R. coal mines at Hosmer will come into commission.

The increase in the value of the copper output was almost entirely due to the rise in price.

### MINERAL COLLECTIONS—AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

On another page of this issue we publish the conditions and terms of Mr. J. B. Tyrrell's prize, offered for the best collection of Ontario minerals made during the current year.

As the prize is open to all Canadians, it is to be hoped that active interest will be displayed in this competition. The reward in itself is a substantial incentive to students and others. But the winner of the "Tyrrell Prize" will have the added satisfaction of having increased his own knowledge of an important science. We are sure that the response to this generous offer will justify the donor in continuing it from year to year.

### THE YUKON—A CORRECTION.

In the *Engineering and Mining Journal* for January the 4th are two articles by Mr. J. B. Hutchins, which purport to give a review of the mining work in the Klondike during 1907. One is entitled "Klondike District" and the other "Gold Dredging in 1907." Both articles give very erroneous impressions of the work that