

CANADA AS A GOLD PRODUCER

Last Year's Returns are Estimated at \$19,162,025—
Ontario Heads the Provinces

Canada's total production of gold in placer and mill bullion and in smelter production in 1916 is estimated by Mr. J. McLeish, B.A., chief of the division of mineral resources and statistics, at 926,963 fine ounces valued at \$19,162,025, as compared with 918,056 fine ounces valued at \$18,977,901 in 1915, an increase of \$184,124, or about 1 per cent. It is the largest production since 1902. The highest production recorded was \$27,908,153 in 1900, and the lowest since then was \$8,382,780 in 1907.

Of the total production in 1916 \$4,957,663 or 26 per cent. were derived from placer and alluvial mining; \$10,472,723, or 54 per cent. in bullion and refined gold, and \$3,731,639, or 20 per cent. contained in matte, blister copper, residues and ores exported. Ontario is the chief gold producing province.

Porcupine Leads List.

Mr. T. W. Gibson, Ontario's deputy minister of mines, in his report states that in 1916 there was produced in Ontario 497,830 ounces of gold, worth \$10,339,259, an increase over 1915 of 86,242 ounces, or \$1,837,868. The production, according to localities, follow:—

	Ore milled. Tons.	Gold. Ounces.	Value.	Recovery per ton.
Porcupine	1,330,562	452,095	\$ 9,397,536	\$ 7.06
Kirkland Lake	39,865	33,991	702,761	17.63
Munro township	477	2,495	51,578	108.13
Long Lake	26,847	9,236	187,003	6.97
Dryden	6	130
Copper ores	13	251
Total	1,397,751	497,836	\$10,339,259

The aggregate value of gold produced in Ontario to December 31st, 1916, was \$33,663,648.

Ontario's Gold Mines.

The chief producers in 1916 are given in the following table:—

Mine.	Ore milled. Tons.	Gold. Ounces.	Value.
Hollinger Consolidated	601,854	244,139	\$5,046,652
Dome Mines	444,900	103,809	2,142,939
McIntyre-Porcupine	120,191	46,744	1,022,999
Tough-Oakes	39,865	33,991	702,761
Porcupine-Crown	51,273	27,877	575,725
Schumacher	46,463	10,844	224,157
McIntyre-Jupiter*	15,484	8,710	180,044
Porcupine-Vipond	43,041	8,508	175,874

*Ore treated in the McIntyre-Porcupine mill.

Other producers were Dome Lake, McIntyre-Extension, Canadian Exploration Company at Long Lake, near Sudbury, Croesus in Munro township and a small shipment from the Rognon, near Dryden.

The new gold camps at Boston Creek and Kowkash are giving good promise under the development now going on. Gold has also been found in Cairo, Powell and Alma townships, an area lying about twenty miles to the north of Elk Lake. The pre-Cambrian formations of northern Ontario offer prospectors as good inducements as any part of the continent, especially for gold.

British Columbia's \$4,500,000.

The other provinces returns, according to the Dominion report, are as follows:—

The production in Nova Scotia was about \$103,359, a decrease of 24.4 per cent. from that of 1915 and was due to the water shortage which interfered seriously with the operations of the hydro-electric plants.

The production in Quebec is derived from the pyrites ores of the Eastern Townships. The gold content of these ores is low and is not paid for to the mine operators.

The Hollinger Consolidated Mines contributed about 48 per cent. of the output and the Dome about 21 per cent.

Apart from a small recovery of alluvial gold in Alberta no production is recorded from this province nor from Manitoba, or Saskatchewan.

The production in British Columbia was \$4,520,868, as against \$5,651,184 in 1915, a decrease of 20 per cent; this total includes \$575,000 estimated by the provincial mineralogist as being the output of placer mining, and \$3,945,000 recovered from milling and smelting operations.

The production from the Yukon Territory amounted to \$4,391,669, as against \$4,750,450 in 1915, a decrease of 7.5 per cent.

SYSTEM OF LABOR BUREAUX SUGGESTED

That a system of National Labor Bureaux be organized is the plea of a memorial drafted by Miss E. St. John Wileman, and signed by a number of organizations from coast to coast, for presentation to the Dominion government. It points out that there are no standing records of the labor market and no place to obtain them. "The statistics sent out by the labor department are largely made up from volunteer reports from labor unions and charitable societies. There are no means for securing knowledge of the amount of casual labor and seasonal work, of the amount of wage-earning time and of idleness, and its effect upon the worker. Practically nothing is known of how workers carry over the dull seasons of the dovetailing of trades and industries in either industrial or agricultural pursuits.

"There is no co-operation between the education authorities and the labor department for the intelligent direction of the industrial and technical training of children, with the result that thousands of boys and girls are sent out annually into the unskilled market of this country.

"While the government gives a bonus for the securing of agricultural and domestic workers, no provision is made for their settlement, with the result that our cities are crowded each winter with a large body of immigrant unemployed.

"Canada presents the anomaly of the immigrant mechanic not being recognized by the authorities, and no reliable information as to conditions and openings is procurable by him, though the Dominion has, in the utilization of her natural resources, become a manufacturing country, and the industrial worker is as essential to her progress as the agricultural worker."

The memorial then recommends that: Legislation be enacted by the government this session of parliament, providing for the establishment of a permanent commission which will be responsible to parliament to organize and administer a system of national labor bureaux, the salient points to be:—

(a) A commission or authority at Ottawa with executive power over the whole Dominion.

(b) In the chief municipalities small local boards, representative of the city council, employers and workers, with power in the agricultural districts to co-opt a member of a farmers' association, with the agent of the central authority acting as secretary of the board.

(c) A strict neutrality on the part of the bureaux during strikes and lockouts.

(d) Co-operation with the education authorities for the better industrial and vocational training of children.

(e) Co-operation with all government departments working towards the direction and control of labor and immigration, particularly the post-office, in the franking of letters and the distribution of bureaux literature.

(f) The officers appointed to carry out the system to be tested as to business efficiency and vocational fitness by a board of examiners.

(g) Where necessary, separate waiting-rooms to be provided for men and women under proper supervision.

(h) Owing to the number of women engaged in industry, it is recommended that a woman be a member of the commission and local boards.

Young insurance men complain of a lack of prospects, said Mr. R. A. Darker, of the Canada Life Assurance Company, addressing the Calgary Life Underwriters' Association, yet 20,000 persons had become new prospects for insurance in Alberta in 1915, the latest year for which figures are available. Yet in that year only about \$18,000,000 of insurance had been placed in the province, less than \$1,000 per capita for each new prospect, to say nothing of those requiring re-insurance.