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THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ONTARIO BUREAU OF MINES.

The twentieth Annual Report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines has just made its appearance. While its statistics are brought up only to the end of the year 1910, yet there are many pages that include information gathered as late as March of the current year. This palliates the sin of tardiness. However, we can see no reason why the special reports, many of which must have been ready months ago, could not be published as "separates."

In the 301 pages of the Report there are presented many papers of exceptional interest. Inspector E. T. Corkill's chapter on mining accidents is praiseworthy complete. Mr. N. L. Bowen's description of the Thunder Bay silver region will stir up interest in that historic mining country. We quite concur in his belief that the district is worthy of attention. Dr. E. S. Moore, who writes on the Sturgeon Lake gold field, offers a word of warning. He advises against the hasty erection of mills before ore has been blocked out. Prof. M. B. Baker, who was sent by the Bureau to investigate the lignite deposits near the Mattagami River, sums up his opinion thus: "Beyond local use, confined to the outcrops from which a few tons might be economically mined, it does not seem that the lignite of the Moose Basin has an economic value." Other papers, all of a high order of merit, are presented. It is, however, with Mr. T. W. Gibson's statistical review that we are presently concerned.

According to Mr. Gibson's official estimate, the value of Ontario's mineral output during the year 1910 was \$39,313,895, showing an increment of more than 19 per cent. over the preceding twelve months, and of 53 per cent. as compared with the year 1908. As pointed out by Mr. Gibson, only in one year, namely 1908, has there not been recorded a very substantial gain since 1905.

Although gold is still a very small item in the returns, so impressive are its possibilities that we do not hesitate to deal with it first.

In the past year, only nine mines are on record as having produced gold bullion. These are the Gilmour, in Hastings County; the Havilah, formerly the Ophir, on the north shore of Lake Huron; the Canadian Exploration Company's mine at Long Lake, on the Sault branch of the C.P.R.; the Mikado mine, Lake of the Woods; the LePage and Norwalk, Michipicoten; the Swastika, Otto Township; and the Hollinger and Dome mines, Porcupine.

The total production of these mines amounted to only \$68,498. Inconsiderable as this may seem, it must be remembered that a vast change has been effected