

## METAL MINING IN ONTARIO

Metal mining has become a great industry in Ontario. Gold, silver, nickel and copper are produced in large quantities.

For some years the nickel-copper mines of the Sudbury district have been widely known as the world's chief source of nickel and important producers of copper. The output this year is greater than ever.

Since the original discovery ten years ago the silver mines at Cobalt have placed Ontario in a prominent position as a producer of silver. The deposits are remarkably rich and the profit has been unusually large, amounting to about one-half of the value of the silver. The production is now at the rate of over 30,000,000 ounces per year. For this year to date there is a slight increase over last year both in quantity and in value.

Until quite recently Ontario had few successful gold mines. The discovery of gold in the Porcupine district, however, has resulted in the development of two large and profitable mines. A third, though small, is proving rich and there are others which, while so far not profitable, are looked upon as likely to become so.

There are many miles of territory in Northern Ontario concerning which scarcely anything is known. There are large areas which have been described by explorers as promising; but as yet unprospected.

There is every indication that many more important ore deposits will be found in the Province and that the mining industry will continue to grow.

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOMINION COAL COMPANY AND PROVINCIAL WORKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The agreement covering wages and conditions of work between the Provincial Workmen's Association and the Dominion Coal Company which expires 31st December, 1913, has been once more renewed for a period of three years ending 31st December, 1916. The document on which this agreement was endorsed is now of almost historic importance. It is the original signed award of the Shortt Board of Conciliation, given in March, 1908, which was at that time accepted by the Coal Company and their workmen as the basis of a two years agreement ending 31st December, 1909. The agreement was renewed for a further period of two years ending 1911, and once again for two years ending 1913, and upon the present and last occasion for three years ending 1916. The successive renewals of the award are endorsed upon the original document, which has now become an interesting record of the permanence of the harmonious relations existing between the Dominion Coal Company and their workmen at the mines.

The new agreement continues in force the rate of wages and the conditions of work in existence at the end of 1913, together with an increase of six per cent. to all day-paid labourers in and about the mines whose rates at the end of 1913 were less than \$2.00 per day,

together with sundry local increases in contract rates to meet special local conditions. In 1907 the rate for common labour was \$1.38 per day. This rate was raised to \$1.45 in 1908, again to \$1.52 in 1910, to \$1.60 in 1912, and from 1st January, 1914, will be \$1.70 per day. The rate for shiftmen, which has been \$1.75 per day since 1908, is raised to \$1.85 per day. As previously stated, all day-paid men rated under \$2.00 per day will receive the six per cent. increase.

The satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations between the Coal Company and the P. W. A., and the extension of the agreement for another three years, has caused general satisfaction throughout the whole district. On one side it will enable the company to make sales contracts and lay out a programme of development without any fear of labour troubles interfering with their plans, and on the other side, it assures to the workmen a continuance of their present earnings, plus as great an increase as the industry can properly afford. It is the record of the relations between the Dominion Coal Company and the P. W. A. that these have never yet been interrupted by a serious strike, and yet since 1900 the P. W. A. have obtained a continuous series of increases in wages, all of which have been obtained by the same method of negotiating and bargaining and eventual mutual agreement, which the latest contract perpetuates for a further three years. It is hardly necessary to set forth the merits of this constructive and conserving policy as against the destructive and wasteful methods of those who for their own ends caused the deplorable strikes in 1909 and 1910 in the various coalfields of Nova Scotia.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Province of Ontario expects soon to have a new Compensation Act. Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, and Special Commissioner of the Ontario Government on Workmen's Compensation, has drafted a bill for submission to the Provincial Legislature. It is proposed, among other things, that compensation last as long as the disability; that employers must contribute towards the expense of administration; that the Provincial Government will contribute to the fund; that contributory negligence is no bar to compensation; that the common law by which an employee takes upon himself risks incidental to his employment be abrogated; that wilful or serious misconduct shall be cause for declining compensation unless death or serious disability results.

Apparently there is no clause requiring that the employee contribute in some small way to the fund. Managers would like to see such a clause, not merely because the workers would be paying a share of the cost of accidents; but because the workers would then have a good reason for striving with the managers in an attempt to prevent accidents. An assessment, even a very small one, would be unwelcome to the worker. He could be expected to strive to keep it as small as possible. In doing this he would go out of his way to prevent accidents to himself and his fellow workers.