

than made up for such loss. It is understood that the creek gravels suitable for hydraulicking are by no means exhausted, so that given favorable conditions for working them returns may be expected to show a substantial increase next season. Dredge mining in this camp has proved a failure, and has been abandoned for the time. Possibly it may be tried again later; if so it should be by men thoroughly experienced in that class of mining.

The \$500,000 decrease in the value of lode gold was due to the smaller production of the Boundary and West Kootenay districts, and chiefly owing to a suspension of mining and smelting operations during two to three months of the year. The bigger gold-quartz mines of the Province did not contribute nearly so large a proportion of the total as might reasonably have been looked for. In fact the only one that made anything like a fair showing was the Nickel Plate in the Lower Similkameen, with a production estimated at between \$400,000 and \$500,000. In Nelson mining division the Ymir mine made a poor showing as compared with its production of several years ago. On the other hand the Queen, Second Relief, Kootenay Belle and Arlington, all in the Salmo-Erie section of this division, together produced between \$200,000 and \$300,000, and the Fern and Granite, both within a few miles of Nelson, also added to the total. In the northern Lardeau, the Eva mine, near Camborne, was the only gold mine that made a production worthy of mention.

SILVER.

The production of silver was practically the same as that of 1906—not quite 3,000,000 oz. In round figures, West Kootenay produced about 1,300,000 oz., East Kootenay 950,000 oz., Boundary something like 600,000 oz., and the Coast district about 80,000 oz. While the decrease in quantity was not considerable, the expectation was that the change would be the other way, since in Lardeau district the Silver Cup mine made an appreciably large increase over its 1906 output, in Ainsworth several mines together did similarly, and in the Sloean and Whitewater in the camp of that name, and the Rambler-Cariboo, Standard, Hewitt, Vancouver group, and Arlington, among others, all made a higher production than in the year immediately preceding. These gains, however, were insufficient to offset the decreases in East Kootenay and the Boundary. It is pleasing to note that there is believed to have been a distinct improvement in the Sloean, which is a change for the better not generally known to have taken place.

(To be continued.)

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ONTARIO BUREAU OF MINES.

(Continued from last issue.)

OIL AND GAS IN KENT.

The country in which lie the Romney and Tilbury oil fields is covered with drift. It is thus doubly unfortunate that full records of the data regarding underlying formations have not been kept during the sinking of the wells.

In 1905 the Bothwell field was producing some 6,000 barrels of oil per month. This was the first and for some time the only producer. In March, 1907, there were 150 wells drilled in Tilbury, of which only 4 were dry. On July 1st the number of producing wells was 235. There were also 33 dry holes and 26 new wells being drilled. In the Romney pool, at the same date, there were 47

wells, of which 24 were dry. The production of oil from the Tilbury and Romney field is given by the Imperial Oil Company of Sarnia, who purchase the entire flow, as follows:—

East Tilbury—

No. of bbls. of 35 gallons from Dec.,

1905, to end of June, 1906	4,000
July	4,315
August	13,897
September	14,651
October	23,679
November	26,558
December	28,101

1907.

January	29,172
February	26,098
March	29,600
April	31,055
May	35,004
June	35,654

Romney, 1907—

	Bbls.
January	2,871
February	5,939
March	11,104
April	9,685
May	5,534
June	3,163

The Romney field is handicapped by lack of water for boilers. Also it has little natural gas. Gas is to be piped from Tilbury.

The total oil produced in Toronto in the first six months of 1907 was slightly more than 400,000 bbls. Of this the Tilbury and Romney fields produced more than half.

The Sarnia refinery has a capacity of 75,000 bbls. per month. It is worked to full capacity, and any falling off in Ontario's production is made good by importation from the United States.

In July last Tilbury crude oil brought the operator \$1.16 per bbl.; Romney oil, 84 cents per bbl. In addition to this there is a Government bounty of 52 1-2 cents per bbl. Including United States producers, the price per bbl. ranges from 28 cents to \$1.68 1-2. The latter figures includes bounty.

The color of the Tilbury oil in bulk is a dark green olive. In thin layers it assume a pale yellow shade. It is 38 degree to 41 degrees Beaumé.

The Romney oil, described by refiners as "dead," contains a high percentage of sulphur. A small quantity of naphtha is extracted from it and the balance is sold as fuel. It is about 28 degrees to 30 degrees Beaumé.

There are several important gas wells in East Tilbury and Raleigh. During May and June, 1907, the City of Chatham drew its whole supply of natural gas from one well on the David Halliday farm in the northwest part of lot 1, in the sixth concession of Raleigh. The well is 1,421 feet deep. Gas was struck at 1,417 feet. It is lined with 3 inch tubing, and packed with a dresser packed. It was closed in on September 16th, 1906. The gas is conveyed 10 miles to Chatham in a surface pipe 3 inches in diameter. This is to be replaced by a 6 inch pipe. The rock pressure of the gas is said to have decreased to 460 lbs. to the square inch, but when first measured it was 650 lbs. It is conveyed to the city at a pressure of 200 lbs., when it is reduced to 60 lbs. At the Chatham Gas Company's works it is further reduced to 6 ounces, at which pressure it is delivered to the consumers.