

## MINERAL OUTPUT WAS RESTRICTED

### Decrease of Seventeen Million Dollars Occurred in Canada's Production, Owing to War and Depression

The preliminary report on the mineral production in Canada in 1914 shows a total value of the production during the year just closed of \$128,475,499. The total value of the production in 1913 was \$145,634,812 compared with which the 1914 output shows a decrease of \$17,159,313 or 11.8 per cent. The average production per capita was \$15.91 as against \$18.77 in 1913, \$18.27 in 1912, and \$14.93 in 1910.

The production of the more important metals and minerals is shown in the following table:—

	1914.		Increase or decrease in value.
	Quantity.	Value.	
Copper (lbs.)	75,738,386	\$ 10,301,935	— \$ 1,451,671
Gold (ozs.)	770,374	15,925,044	— 673,879
Pig iron (*tons)	783,164	10,002,856	— 6,537,156
Lead (lbs.)	36,337,765	1,627,568	— 127,137
Nickel (lbs.)	45,517,937	13,655,381	— 1,247,651
Silver (ozs.)	27,544,231	15,097,269	— 3,943,655
Other metallic products		1,123,919	— 189,813
Total		\$ 67,733,972	— \$14,170,962
Less pig iron credited to imported ores (tons)	687,420	8,863,944	— 6,679,639
Total metallic		\$ 58,870,028	— \$ 7,491,323
Asbestos and Asbestic (tons)	112,573	\$ 2,909,806	— \$ 940,119
Coal (tons)	13,594,984	33,433,108	— 3,901,832
Gypsum (tons)	510,663	1,137,157	— 310,582
Natural gas (M. ft.)	21,047,028	3,511,302	+ 201,921
Petroleum (barrels)	214,805	343,124	— 63,315
Pyrites (tons)	224,958	735,514	+ 214,333
Salt (tons)	107,038	493,648	+ 2,368
Cement (barrels)	7,172,480	9,187,924	— 1,831,494
Clay products		7,090,898	— 2,413,416
Lime (bushels)	6,245,189	1,247,517	— 361,881
Stone		5,593,485	+ 88,846
Miscellaneous non-metallic		3,921,988	— 352,819
Total non-metallic		\$ 69,605,471	— \$ 9,667,990
Grand total		\$128,475,499	— \$17,159,313

\*Short tons throughout.

The production of the metals copper, gold, lead, nickel and silver is given as far as possible on the basis of the quantities of metals recovered in smelters in Canada, or probably recovered from ores exported, and the total quantities in each case are valued at the average market price of the refined metal in a generally recognized market.

The quantities thus given will differ from those which represent metal contents of ore shipped by amounts due (1) to losses in smelting; (2) to the "lag" or lapse of time between the ore shipment and its treatment in the smelter. Thus the production of refined lead during the past two years has been very much lower than that reported as contained in ores shipped from the mines, the difference being due both to smelter losses and the large accumulation of ore at the smelter.

The metal miner is usually paid for his product on the basis of the value of the refined metals less a variety of deductions and in many cases it would be exceedingly difficult to obtain a record of the net value received. It is for this reason and for the facility of comparisons that the refined values are used.

#### Miners Produced Less.

Mr. J. McLeish, of the department of mines, in this report states that there has been a general falling off in the production of nearly all mine products, the notable exceptions being, pyrites, salt, and natural gas. In the case of pyrites there is an increase of about 42 per cent., and about 6 per cent. in quantity of salt produced. The number of cubic feet of natural gas produced shows an increase of about 3 per cent., with an increase of over 6 per cent. in value.

The falling off in the production of the metals is to be ascribed in large measure to the conditions resulting from the war. Especially in the case of the metals copper, nickel and silver. The cutting off of markets and the closing of metal exchanges with the consequent cessation of market quotations resulted in the closing down or restriction of operation at many properties. Before the close of the year, many of these adverse conditions had been adjusted although prices had fallen considerably.

The actual quantities of copper and lead produced were but little less than in the previous year, nickel showed a decrease of 8 per cent., and silver of 13.5 per cent. in quantity. The total values, because of lower prices, showed much larger percentage decreases. The iron industry was undoubtedly affected by industrial conditions of depression and shows a falling off of 30 per cent. in tonnage of pig iron made.

#### Metallic and Non-Metallic Values.

The total value of the metallic production in 1914 was \$58,870,028 as against \$66,361,351, a decrease of \$7,491,323, or 11 per cent.

The production of non-metallic products also shows a large falling off in 1914, the total value for the year being \$69,605,471 as against \$79,273,461 in 1913, a decrease of \$9,667,990 or 12.19 per cent.

The decrease is most pronounced in the case of coal, asbestos and gypsum and in those products such as cement, clay products (building brick, sewer pipe, etc.) and lime, generally classed as structural materials, although there was a small increase in the production of stone quarries.

Industrial depression the culmination of over development and extravagant land speculation is largely responsible for sudden reverse although the asbestos output would be restricted by the disturbance in foreign markets and the coal production would also be affected by the restricted metallurgical operations.

There were also slight increases in the production of white arsenic, feldspar, grindstones, ochres, phosphate and tripolite. Asbestos shows a decrease of 27 per cent. in tonnage and 24 per cent. in value, coal a decrease of 10 per cent. in tonnage and 9 per cent. in value, petroleum a decrease of 5.8 per cent. in quantity and 15.6 per cent. in value, clay products 25 per cent. in total value and lime 17.4 per cent. in quantity and 22.5 per cent. in value.

#### PREMIER MCBRIDE ON BANK OF VANCOUVER.

Speaking in the British Columbia legislature of the experience of the Bank of Vancouver, Sir Richard McBride is reported as saying how proud Vancouver, and, indeed, the whole province, had been to point to the establishment of the bank, when it had secured its charter. He could not but feel that had it received the due support and loyalty from the people of Vancouver, and the encouragement and assistance the other banks should have given it, it would not now be closed. He expressed the belief that ere long it would be enabled to resume business, and felt that it would be a fine thing for the credit of Vancouver, in whose future all had great faith, but at the present juncture such a rehabilitation of a young financial institution would be a splendid object lesson in loyalty to home matters.

Sir Richard paid a tribute to the member for Similkameen (Mr. L. W. Shatford), to whose untiring energy the bank, and through it the people of Vancouver, owed so much. He had put behind the bank his own personality, and his well-known loyalty to the country, and his high ideals of personal and business integrity, and it was a matter of deep regret that such a conclusion had for the moment come to his efforts.

At the annual meeting of the Yorkton, Sask., board of trade the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Honorary president, Mr. Thos. H. Garry; honorary vice-president, Mr. J. B. Gibson; president, Mr. J. L. Henning, manager of the Massey-Harris Company; vice-president, Mr. P. B. J. Harding; secretary-treasurer, Mr. Thos. Lovell. Council—Messrs. W. D. Dunlop, H. K. Moberley, J. W. Lightbody, S. N. Wynn, W. H. Tennant, E. S. Wilson, F. J. Piper, J. M. Clark, J. A. M. Patrick, C. W. Atkin, C. A. Mercer, J. T. M. Anderson, H. M. Louth, M. A. Eby, J. Macdonald, H. G. S. Auchmuty, M. Duncan, J. W. Kennedy, F. J. Pilkington, F. C. Wilson, T. E. Vanstone, G. E. Terpena, C. M. Sinclair, D. H. Walkinshaw, and Dr. Patrick.