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THE QUEBEC ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report on Mining Operations in the Province of Quebec for the year 1911 has just come to hand. Before touching upon its contents we wish to express our appreciation of the manner in which the whole report has been designed and executed. Typographically, it is a vast improvement upon any report yet issued by the Quebec Mines Branch. It is cleanly printed and well edited; and the engravings, while not perfect, are much superior to those that formerly appeared. In general apearance, in tone, and in text, the 1911 report sets a new standard of excellence. To the Minister of Mines, the Hon. C. R. Devlin, felicitations are due. Equally are they due to Mr. S. Dufault, the Deputy Minister, and to Mr. Theo. C. Denis, the indefatigable technical head of the Branch.

The Report opens with a statistical review of the annual mineral production of the Province. In value the yearly output of minerals has risen from slightly over two million dollars in the year 1899 to the respectable amount of \$8,679,786 in 1911. Imperfect as the Quebec statistical methods may have been, the growth of the industry has been normal enough to give relative value to the figures quoted. Taking them as they stand, they show that Quebec's mining industry has grown 250 per cent. during the period 1899-1911. During this same period Ontario is the only province that has developed more rapidly in mining. And it is noteworthy that Quebec's expansion has been quiet and regular, with a notable absence of the costly stimulus of a boom.

The total shipments of asbestos during 1911 amounted to 102,224 tons, valued at \$3,026,306, or \$29.60 per ton. This compares most favourably with the previous year, when the shipments were 80,605 tons, valued at \$2,667,869, or \$33.10 per ton. Moreover the stock on hand was lighter in 1911 than in 1910, the figures being respectively 33,751 tons and 41,159 tons. Since the world's total production of asbestos, apart from Quebec, was in 1909 only 19,342 short tons, valued at 653,761 tons ,and as there has been no considerable increase since that year, Canada is still easily the largest factor in the market.

The shipments of copper-bearing pyrites, 38,554 tons, were larger than in any previous year save 1899. The Eustis mine, at Eustis, and the McDonald mine, at Weedon, were the only producers. At both mines the iron pyrites contains copper up to 5 per cent., and the sulphur in the ore ranges from 40 to 50 per cent.

Quebec's gold production in 1911 was inconsiderable, being only equivalent to \$11,800. Practically all