

PYRITES.

There are in Ontario and Quebec important pyrites mines.

The chief producing pyrites mine in Ontario is the Northern Pyrite mine at Graham station, on the G. T. P. Ry., which is shipping at the rate of 125,000 tons a year. During 1916 the mine was being equipped for increased production and consequently the output was only about one half normal. The largest producer in 1916 was therefore the Gondreau mine, operated by the Madoc Mining Company. The Gondreau is located on the Algoma Central railway, north of Sault St. Marie.

In Eastern Ontario, at Queensboro, an excellent deposit of pyrites is being worked by the Canadian Sulphur Ore Co.

Quebec has been producing pyrites in large quantities for many years. The Quebec pyrites carries considerable copper and a little gold and silver. The chief producers are the Eustis and Weedon mines. The Eustis mill was burned late in 1915 and the new mill was not in operation until late in the spring of 1916.

Mr. Edgar Rickard, assistant director of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, is to be in Toronto on April 14. Mr. Rickard was graduated from the University of California in 1895, taking post-graduate work the following year, and after serving the usual apprenticeship as assayer and surveyor in various parts of the United States, went to Tasmania in 1899 as resident manager of the Briseis Tin Mines; 1900-1901, examination work in Mexico, Alaska and U. S. A. In 1902 to 1905 he was superintendent of the Progreso Mine in Lower California, Mexico. In 1905 he became business manager of the Mining and Scientific Press, and in 1909 managing director of the Mining Magazine, London. At the opening of the war he served on the executive committee of the American committee under Mr. Hoover, looking after the American refugees in London, and was asked by Mr. Hoover to join the Commission for Relief in Belgium at its inception, October, 1914, serving as honorary secretary up to October, 1916, when he came to New York to act as assistant director.

C.S.C.E. APPOINTS A NEW SECRETARY.

Montreal, March 21.—Owing to the increased importance of the work of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, with headquarters in Montreal, in its relation to national affairs, it was decided at the recent annual convention to appoint a secretary who could devote all his time to the society's interests. The position was offered to, and accepted by, Mr. Fraser S. Keith of Toronto, who was editor and manager of Construction Magazine. Mr. Keith is an honor graduate of McGill Faculty of Applied Science, and spent a year at the university as senior demonstrator in electrical engineering. Mr. Keith has had a wide journalistic career, having been associated with The Canadian Machinery as editor, and later as manager, 1905-6, and the following year he was editor of The Canadian Manufacturer. Subsequently he spent a few years in British Columbia, returning to Montreal in the spring of 1915.

ONTARIO NICKEL COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The Royal Ontario Nickel Commission, appointed on 9th of September, 1915, has presented its report to the Ontario Government. The Commissioners were: Geo. T. Holloway, London, England (chairman), a leading metallurgical expert; Dr. W. G. Miller, Provincial Geologist, and McGregor Young, K.C., Toronto. Mr. Thomas W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, acted as secretary. The report proper contains over 600 pages in addition to the appendix of 219 pages giving evidence of witnesses.

The Commissioners say that in their opinion:

"(1) The nickel ore deposits of Ontario are much more extensive and offer better facilities for the production of nickel at a low cost than do those of any other country. Nickel-bearing ores occur in many parts of the world, but the great extent of the deposits in this province, their richness and uniformity in metal contents, and the success of the industry, point strongly to the conclusion that Ontario nickel has little to fear from competition.

"(2) Any of the processes now in use for refining nickel could be successfully worked in Ontario, and conditions and facilities are at least as good in this province as in any other part of Canada.

"(3) In view of the fact that practically no chemicals are required, that there is a much more complete saving of the precious metals, especially platinum and palladium, and that electric power is cheap and abundant, the most satisfactory method of refining in Ontario will be the electrolytic.

"(4) The refining of nickel in Ontario will not only benefit the nickel industry, but will promote the welfare of existing branches of the chemical and metallurgical industries, and lead to the introduction of others.

"(5) The methods employed at the Ontario plants of the two operating nickel companies are modern and efficient, although there are differences in both mining and smelting practices. It is the consistent policy of both companies to adopt all modern improvements in plant or treatment. Even during the present time of acute pressure the Canadian Copper Company has materially increased its output without substantial enlargement of its plant, and the losses in smelting are less, both at Copper Cliff and the Mond plant at Coniston, than they were a year ago. These companies have each had their experimental stage, neither has asked nor received any Government assistance, and both have earned the success which they have achieved.

"(6) The present system of mining taxation in Ontario is just and equitable and in the public interest, and is the best system for this province. Any question of change is rather one of rate than of principle.

"(7) Experiments have been undertaken by the Commission in the production of nickel-copper steel direct from Sudbury ore, and also in the electrolytic refining of nickel. Certain improvements in the latter process have been made the subject of application on behalf of the Government of Ontario for patents in Canada, the United States and Great Britain."

DEEP DRILLING AT SUDBURY.

Deep drilling of the Frood Extension property owned by the Mond Nickel Company, is to be undertaken. The hole will be put down 3,000 ft. Smith and Durkee of Sudbury will do the work.