

ONTARIO'S MINERAL OUTPUT

Likely Fifty Per Cent. Increase in Gold Output—Good Demand for Other Minerals

The output of the metalliferous mines and works of Ontario for the six months ending June 30th, 1915, as reported to the Ontario bureau of mines, is shown by the following table, which gives also the production for the corresponding period of last year:—

	Six months, 1915.	Six months, 1914.
Gold	\$3,570,072	\$2,011,069
Silver	5,188,763	7,053,418
Copper	1,229,894	1,197,059
Nickel	3,393,528	2,872,843
Iron ore	288,296	118,119
Pig iron	2,856,040	4,429,664
Cobalt	34,443	22,581
Cobalt oxide (including nickel oxide)	56,812	379,152

Of the total yield of gold \$3,267,620 came from the mines of Porcupine. The remainder, \$302,452, was the combined product of the Canadian Exploration Company at Long Lake, the Tough-Oakes Mines at Kirkland Lake, and the Cordova Mine in Hastings County. The principal Porcupine outputs were: Hollinger and Acme, \$1,764,690; Dome, \$589,234; Porcupine Crown, \$382,001; McIntyre, \$346,997. The production of the Porcupine group is increasing, and the existing scale of operations, if maintained for the full year, will give an increase of about 50 per cent. over the yield for 1914.

At Kirkland Lake the Tough-Oakes mill is working steadily, and other prospects there are being opened up. The Huronia Mine in Gauthier township, east of Kirkland Lake, is being tested, and more or less work is in progress on the finds at Goodfish Lake, north of Kirkland Lake, also in Boston township. Quartz of remarkable richness has been encountered in the shaft of the Dobie-Leyson claim in the township of Munro. Samples were shown at the recent Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, carrying up to 2,000 or 2,500 ounces of gold per ton. It is estimated that at least a ton of such ore has so far been obtained, together with a considerable quantity of \$40 and \$50 ore. Gold has also been found at Howard's Falls on the Kawaskagami River—corrupted or abbreviated into "Kowkash"—near the crossing of the National Transcontinental Railway, about 300 miles west of Cochrane. A number of prospectors have gone into the area, and a good many claims have been staked. One of the geologists of the Bureau of Mines is at present on the ground making a preliminary examination of the rocks, but his report has not yet been received.

Diminution in Silver Output.

The diminution in the output of silver continues, the falling off as compared with the first six months of 1914 being \$1,864,655. Part of the shrinkage is due to the fall in price of silver since the war began, but in any event a decrease was to be expected. The Nipissing Mine remains at the head of the producing list, with a yield of \$1,139,387, Mining Corporation of Canada (Townsite, Cobalt Lake and City of Cobalt Mines) being second with \$773,192. Coniagas follows with \$565,816, Kerr Lake with \$410,476. A feature of recent operations in the camp is the development of a rich series of veins by the Mining Corporation of Canada under the townsite of Cobalt. Gowganda yielded \$49,126, Miller Lake O'Brien being the one producing property in that area.

The output of nickel has never been so great as it is at the present time. The demand is insistent, and the producing companies are working their mines and smelters at full capacity. As compared with the corresponding period of 1914 the value of the copper output increased by over 2 per cent., while that of nickel went up by over 18 per cent. The quantity of ore raised was 548,579 tons, and of ore smelted 550,870 tons. The Canadian Copper Company and the Mond Nickel Company are the producing concerns.

The output of iron ore was wholly from the Helen and Magpie mines owned by the Algoma Steel Corporation, and considerably exceeded that of the same period last year. The production of pig iron fell off 38 per cent. in value.

The chief outlet for cobalt oxide, the ceramic works of Europe, has been closed by the war. Consequently the ship-

ments from the silver refineries have been greatly reduced, falling off in value 85 per cent. Some consignments have been made to Great Britain and the United States. Metallic cobalt is now being produced both at Deloro and Thorold, and is finding a use in the manufacture of high grade and high speed tools, also for the plating of metallic objects, replacing nickel for this purpose.

There is a strong demand for the ores of molybdenum. The principal one is molybdenite, of which there are many occurrences in Ontario, though so far they have shown the usual pocketty and uncertain characteristics which mark deposits of this mineral wherever found. Concentrates carrying 85 or 90 per cent. of molybdenum sulphide bring as much as \$1.75 per pound. The demand is from steel-makers in England, whose supply before the war came from Germany, mainly as ferro-molybdenum. Nine-tenths of the product is used in making special alloys for ordnance-working tools. Parties in a position to supply molybdenite can be put in touch with buyers by corresponding with the Director of the Imperial Institute, London, England.

INSURANCE AGENTS AND INCENDIARISM

"While some few fires are set for revenge and spite, fully 90 per cent. of the incendiary fires are due to over-insurance," says Mr. W. S. Ridgell, chief deputy fire commissioner for the State of Nebraska, in his annual report, in commenting on incendiary fires. "Insurance companies are responsible for this through their local agents. It is easy for a dishonest person to obtain insurance amounting to five hundred or five thousand dollars more than the insured property is worth. This excessive insurance makes it a great temptation to burn the property and obtain the cash. So flagrant are these cases that the Nebraska legislature two years ago enacted a law and provided a penalty for both the local agent and the insured in case of over-insurance.

"We intend to enforce this law vigorously in every case," adds the commissioner, "where we find property over-insured and the local agent or insured responsible. If we can bring the insurance agents of each town in the state to a realization of their responsibility and duty in personally inspecting property before insuring it, incendiarism will decrease materially in this state."

SHIPPING TAXES ST. JOHN'S FACILITIES

(Special Correspondence.)

St. John, N.B., October 4th.

The exports from St. John during the last fiscal year were valued at \$43,872,932, an increase over the best previous year of \$18,278,211. The indications are that during the approaching winter season there will be a still greater increase in traffic. Two transcontinental lines will utilize the port this winter—the Canadian Pacific Railway and the National Transcontinental line from Winnipeg, via Moncton. The grain and other freight that these lines will carry here for ocean shipment will tax the facilities of the port to their utmost.

The imperial government alone will require at least twenty steamers. Then there will be the regular ocean liners, which have been coming here in increasing numbers. Hon. Mr. Hazen has undertaken to assist the port authorities in providing the necessary berths and warehouses for this large ocean army. Three commodious warehouses will be erected, and the berths at the government wharves will be dredged to a depth of 32 feet at low tide to accommodate the largest ocean craft.

With the exception of potatoes and apples, in which there has been a falling off this year, the crop prospects in New Brunswick this year are excellent. In both hay and oats there have been large crops. Buckwheat and wheat show increases. There are also increases in turnips.

General business at St. John and throughout the Maritime Provinces has been well sustained throughout the summer and the outlook is promising. The scarcity of ocean tonnage and the excessive freights are affecting the lumber business, but in almost every other industrial line there is more than the usual activity.