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PRODUCTION OF CANADIAN MINES SHOWS INCREASE

Almost All Mines Show In- creased Production During Year of 1920.

OTTAWA.—The year 1920 was successful for the Canadian mining industry, the estimated value of production for the twelve months showing a gratifying increase over the figures of the previous year, and being only slightly less than those of the banner year of 1918, when the war stimulus of production was at its zenith. The Government's estimate of production for the year is \$200,000,000 as compared with \$176,686,000 in 1919, and \$211,391,897 in 1918. In all minerals there was substantial increase in production, with the exception of lead and silver, which showed small declines from the previous year's figures, and iron ore, where there was a heavy falling off.

One of the notable features of the mining year was the marked recovery in the production of copper, zinc, and nickel among the metals, and of coal among the non-metallic products. There was also a small increase in gold production. Zinc, coal and asbestos reached the highest figures of production in the history of Canada, whilst the output of chromite, gypsum, fluor spar, mica, and salt was well sustained. The situation is satisfactory, more so, indeed, than a survey of these figures without making an allowance for extraordinary war conditions would suggest. For under the stimulus of war, Canada's mineral production increased from a total value of \$128,863,000 in 1914 to a value of \$211,300,000 in 1918. The reaction in 1919 resulted in a falling off to \$176,686,000, practically the same value as was placed upon the 1915 production. The banner year of war-stimulated production, 1918, was the only one which exceeded in its mineral production the twelve months just ended. The total production of nickel is estimated at 1,500,000 pounds, an increase of 38 per cent. over the 1919 production, and an output that has been exceeded in Canada only during the four war years. The production of this metal in Canada, for some years to come, will be limited only by the demands of the market, the developed deposits assuring an ore supply for a long period. Smelting capacity has been constructed in the Dominion during the year considerably higher than any reached during the war.

A Coal Shortage

By ELIAS SEARLES, Editor, Mine Workers' Journal.

It begins to look as if things are shaping up for a coal shortage this year that may be even more serious to the coal-consuming public than was the shortage of last year. Right now, when the people, the railroads and the industries should be buying coal, they are not doing so. They are putting it off until the last minute and everyone knows that if all of the consumers made a grand rush for coal at the same time late in the year, some of them will not get any coal. It will be impossible for the miners, the railroads, or the industries to meet such a demand all of a sudden. It would be the thing for the public to do to buy coal now and store it for future needs. By doing so they would avoid the trouble that is sure to come if they wait until the last minute.

No doubt some people are waiting in the hope that wages of miners will be reduced and that this might bring down the price of coal. But if any are entertaining such a thought, they may as well get it out of their heads at once, for there is not going to be any reduction in wages. The United Mine Workers will not permit any reductions. President Lewis has made this point clear. Therefore, no one need delay buying coal on the ground that wages may come down. The miners could not make more than a living at present wages, even if they were employed full time. It is quite certain that they are not making a

shows an increase of 10 per cent. over the previous year. Whilst Quebec production fell off, Ontario output increased by about 25 per cent. The estimated value of gold production is placed at \$16,000,000, comparing with \$15,560,423 in 1919. Whilst the total value has slight increase during the last two years, the production is still less than that of 1916, when the total was more than \$19,000,000, or in 1906, when a maximum of nearly \$25,000,000 was obtained. Ontario probably contributed about 72 per cent. of the total Canadian gold production in 1920, derived from seven mines in the Porcupine district, three at Kirkland Lake, and several miscellaneous properties.

Annual Coal Production Increases

Silver production for the year is put at 12,500,000 ounces, or 2,500,000 below that of 1919. The decrease was general. Lead was the other mineral which showed a decline, its 35,500,000 pounds being 8,527,000 less than the 1919 production. The estimated production of refined zinc and zinc recovered from ores is placed at 42,000,000 pounds. The coal output for the twelve months is figured to have been at least 16,500,000 short tons, which is 2,500,000 tons, or 15 per cent. over that for 1919. Alberta leads the provinces with an estimated production of 5,700,000 tons. The estimated value of the Dominion's production is \$70,000,000. Iron ore production fell away considerably during the year, it being estimated that shipments from the mines did not exceed 120,000 tons, coming mainly from the mines of the Algoma Steel Corpora-

living under present conditions, when work is scarce and hundreds of mines are closed down. It is to be hoped that the people will not be subjected to the hardships of a fuel shortage next fall, when the frosts begin to bite. The miners of this country stand ready to dig all the coal the people want or can use, but if the people will not buy, the miners cannot produce. Conditions at this time are very much like those which existed last year, when everybody howled for coal at the same time. Railroads were demoralized and unable to haul enough coal to satisfy everybody. They are in no better condition now to handle a large coal traffic than they were last year. They have allowed their rolling stock and power to deteriorate. They have not even attempted to keep their equipment in condition for good service. When the grand rush comes, the railroads will be able to haul just so much coal and no more, and the amount of coal to be produced by the miners will, therefore, be limited by the ability of the railroads to move the coal from mine to consumer.

If consumers would buy coal now thousands of mine workers who are unemployed could go back to work and have the opportunity to make a living. If the people continue to refuse to buy coal and a shortage comes as a result, it will be no fault of the miners. The public will have only itself to blame.

and Moose Mountain, Ltd. in Ontario. The total production of pig-iron from blast furnaces and electric furnaces in 1920 is estimated at 1,680,000 short tons, and the total production of steel ingots and steel castings at 1,220,000 short tons, both records showing a substantial increase over the production of the previous year.

Delegato Paradis said that in his opinion the National Union was merely a part of the One Big Union movement, and that if contented would create Bolshevism.

HULL WORKERS SUPPORT LABOR MINISTER'S STAND

One Delegate Declares N. C. U. Merely Part of the O. B. U. Movement.

Unanimous approval of the stand taken by Senator Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, with regard to the status of the National Catholic Union, was voiced by delegates at the meeting of the Hull Trades and Labor Council this week.

President Hebert, in introducing the matter, said that the International Trades and Labor organization was the only recognized labor body in the Dominion, and that in its ranks no distinction was made with regard to race or creed. He believed that the stand taken by the Minister of Labor should have the approval of every member of the labor movement, and that the attitude adopted by Dr. J. E. Fontaine, the federal member for Hull, was in strange variance with one he had displayed last year, when he had espoused the cause of the Hull Trades and Labor Association.

On the motion of Delegates Paradis, seconded by Delegates Laprade, a letter will be forwarded to Senator Robertson and also President Tom Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress, expressing the approval of the Hull association, at their refusal to recognize the National Catholic Union, as entitled to representation at the forthcoming Industrial Conference.

Delegato Paradis said that in his opinion the National Union was merely a part of the One Big Union movement, and that if contented would create Bolshevism.

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