

Gypsum.

The production of gypsum of all grades in 1915 is reported as 470,335 tons valued at \$849,928. This is lower than for several years, previous production having been 516,880 tons in 1914; 636,370 tons in 1913; and 578,454 tons in 1912. The Ontario production was practically the same as in 1914, while New Brunswick production showed a slight increase. In both Manitoba and Nova Scotia 1915 production showed a conspicuous decrease from that of the previous year.

Gypsum sold in 1915 was classified as follows: lump 342,467 tons; crushed 48,735 tons; fine ground 6,455 tons; and calcined 72,678 tons. In 1914 the tonnages of the various grades were: lump 351,729 tons; crushed 49,441 tons; fine ground 6,097 tons; and calcined 109,613 tons.

Exports of crude gypsum were 292,234 tons valued at \$336,380 being the smallest reported since 1908. Exports of ground gypsum which were valued at less than \$10,000 yearly for many years rose to a value of \$35,490 in 1914 and to a value of \$80,933 in 1915.

Magnesite.

The production of magnesite in 1915, chiefly crude but including some calcined, was 14,779 tons valued at \$126,535 in contrast with a yearly average production from 1908 to 1914 inclusive of 621 1-2 tons. The increased production was due largely to the urgent demands of steel companies and manufacturers of refractory brick.

All the production came from Grenville Township, Argenteuil County, Quebec. From the Atlin district, in British Columbia, several hundred tons were shipped to Vancouver, but not marketed.

Manganese Ores.

In 1915 there was according to returns received to date, a production of 47 tons of manganese ore (90 per cent. MnO_2) valued at \$5,460 or an average of \$116.17 per ton, as compared with a production in 1914 of 28 tons, valued at \$1,120 or an average of \$40.00 per ton.

The records of the Customs Department show exports of manganese ores amounting to 255 tons, valued at \$6,855, which would seem to indicate shipments additional to those reported.

The property at New Ross, Nova Scotia, formerly operated by the Nova Scotia Manganese Company, was taken over in September and reopened by the Metals Development Company of Halifax.

Natural Gas.

Complete returns have not yet been received from some of the largest operators in Ontario. The 1915 production of natural gas therefore (subject to the corrections of the estimates used) was approximately 18,319,710 thousand cubic feet valued at \$3,300,825 contributed by provinces as follows: Ontario 13,510,071 thousand cubic feet valued at \$2,202,523; New Brunswick 430,692 thousand cubic feet valued at \$60,383, and Alberta 4,378,947 thousand cubic feet valued at \$1,037,919.

The production the previous year was reported as 21,692,504 thousand cubic feet valued at \$3,484,727 of which amount Ontario produced 14,094,521 thousand cubic feet valued at \$2,215,808; New Brunswick 425,826 thousand cubic feet valued at \$54,249, and Alberta 7,172,157 thousand cubic feet valued at \$1,214,670.

Ontario's production in 1915 showed a decrease of 584,450 thousand cubic feet, Alberta production a de-

crease of 2,793,210 thousand cubic feet, and New Brunswick production an increase of 4,866 thousand cubic feet.

The Ontario gas production came from the same fields in the southern portion of the province between Niagara Falls and Windsor, as heretofore. In 1914 and 1915 gas from the Kent fields was distributed as far east as Hamilton, a distance of 153 miles.

The New Brunswick production is obtained in Albert County and supplies chiefly Hillsborough and Moncton, while in Alberta, Medicine Hat and Bow Island are still the principal gas fields, being utilized, supplying the district between Medicine Hat and Calgary.

Petroleum.

The annual production of crude petroleum which had been showing a steady decrease from 1907 to 1914 showed in 1915 a slight increase in quantity over the 1914 production. The value, though, was the lowest recorded in the records of the Division which date back to 1885 for the average price per barrel in Western Ontario (from which nearly the entire Canadian production comes) was the lowest in several years.

A bounty of 1½ cent per gallon is paid on the marketed production of crude oil from Canadian oil-fields through the Department of Trade and Commerce. From the bounty statistics it appears that the 1915 production in Ontario and New Brunswick was 215,464 barrels on which bounties amounting to \$113,118.45 were paid. The market value of this crude oil at \$1.39½ per barrel amounted to \$300,572. In Alberta there was a small production of crude oil, but no bounty was paid on this as the specific gravity was below the standard set by the Petroleum Bounty Act, and complete records have not been furnished by the producers.

The total production of crude oil (exclusive of Alberta) in 1915 is therefore, 215,464 barrels, valued at \$300,572 as compared with a production in 1914 of 214,805 barrels valued at \$343,124.

The average monthly price of crude oil per barrel at Petrolia for the year was \$1.39½ as compared with \$1.59 in 1914, and \$1.782 in 1913. For the first seven months of the year the average price was almost constant at \$1.30½ per barrel, but during the last five months it showed an increase month by month reaching a maximum of \$1.70 in December.

The Ontario production in 1915 was, according to the records of the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, 214,444 barrels. The production in barrels of the various fields, as furnished by the Supervisor of Petroleum Bounties at Petrolia, was as follows: Lambton, 161,368; Tilbury, 12,742; Bothwell, 33,395; Dutton, 5,401; Onondaga, 1,490, and Belle River 46; giving a total of 214,442 barrels. In 1914 the production by fields was as follows: Lambton, 154,186; Tilbury, 18,530; Bothwell, 33,961; Dutton, 2,190; Onondaga, 2,437; and Belle River, 1,191; giving a total of 212,495 barrels.

The production in New Brunswick was 1,020 barrels as against 1,725 in 1914 and 2,111 in 1913.

Exports of petroleum entered as crude mineral oil in 1915 were 35,977 gals., valued at \$1,789, and of refined oil 103,488 gals., valued at \$14,107. There was also an export of naphtha and gasoline of 16,644 gals., valued at \$4,540.

The total value of the imports of petroleum and petroleum products in 1915 was \$8,047,781 as against a value of \$11,174,763 in 1914.

The total imports of petroleum oils, crude and refined, in 1915 were 236,923,765 gals., valued at \$7,979,-