

diamond drilling, the Black Lake Asbestos & Chrome Company is sinking a 300 foot shaft on this property.

Three companies have been operating for chrome, and the output will compare favorably with that of last year. Some parties, consisting of a few persons, have also been working on a small scale. The concentrating of the low grade material is now successfully effected by means of stamp milling, followed by the use of Wilfley tables. About 100 men are employed in this industry, and there are 45 stamps in all at the four mines, producing about 8,000 tons.

There is nothing special to report regarding the iron industry, which is represented by a charcoal blast furnace at Radnor and by two at Drummondville, all three using mostly bog ore.

Experiments are still being made in connection with the treatment of the magnetite sands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, chiefly by means of electricity; but, so far, no definite result has been obtained.

The same remark applies to the treatment of titaniferous ore.

Ochre is worked at St. Malo, in the vicinity of Three Rivers, by three different parties, and is shipped in the calcined form to the amount of about 3,000 tons.

Low grade copper ore is shipped as usual from two mines at Capelton, near Sherbrooke. The ore is used for making sulphuric acid and some value is added by its contents in silver and copper. The Nichols Chemical Company uses some of the ore on the spot, the balance being shipped to the United States. The Eustis Company has its mine run by electricity and is operating a concentrating plant consisting of crushers, collars and Wilfley tables. The output is about 30,000 tons yearly.

Some other prospects have been carried on in connection with copper ore in the same district, among which may be mentioned the Ascot mine and a group of properties developed by Mr. A. O. Norton. The latter is quite important and will probably lead to the making of a valuable mine, as the ore found compares favorably with that got out at Capelton in about the same geological conditions.

Some prospecting for galena has been done at Gaspe Bay, and for galena and zinc blend on Calumet Island (Pontiac County), but so far no shipments have been made.

Practically nothing has been done in connection with the alluvial gold of the Eastern Townships, but the discovery of a small deposit of gold-bearing quartz in Marston, near Lake Megantic, is worth recording. It is the first time in the history of that district that gold has been found in quartz in apparently commercial quantity. Of course the discovery is a fresh one, and we do not know how the prospect will turn out, but it is presumed that further prospecting will be carried on next summer, which may also call attention to the valuable placers formerly worked in the Chaudiere valley and in Ditton.

In the Ottawa district the only activity manifested has been in connection with amber mica, the main producing mine of which has been that of Blackburn Brothers, near Perkins' mill in Templeton. A good many small producers are taking out some mica which is used by large concerns in Ottawa, which city remains the centre of that industry. Mica is shipped in the form of thumb-trimmed and split and is also prepared in large sheets under the name of "Micanite." The value of the material shipped may represent about \$200,000.

A company has also reopened two old white mica mines at Maisonneuve (Berthier County) and near Murray Bay (Charlevoix County), which also contain some

rare earths, but no output of any importance has yet been reported.

Several companies have been organized for working the graphite deposits of Buckingham, Calumet and St. Jovite. Mills have been erected or fitted up anew, and it is proposed to establish others, but the difficulty of concentration has retarded the development of this industry.

Little or no work has been done in connection with molybdenite, phosphate, feldspar or baryta.

In the Three Rivers district some wells have been bored for natural gas, which is conveyed by lines of pipes to that city and some of the neighboring villages.

The manufacture of Portland cement at Hull has been a success, and the output is to be increased still more.

The getting out and manufacture of building materials are progressing proportionately to the development of the country.

II.

THE DISTRICTS IN THE NORTH.

The new mining districts of the Province comprise the unsurveyed portion of the northern territory of the country of Pontiac, east of the Province of Ontario, and the Chibogomo region. Both are included in the Huronian belt running from Lakes Superior and Huron to Lake Mistassini.

The former region, owing to its proximity to Cobalt, led to the conception of great hopes which so far have been but slightly realized. In fact, the explorations of the Geological Survey and the Quebec Government as well as the many prospects carried on by private individuals, have led to the discovery of very little beyond the existence of rocks of that Huronian formation, in which, however, one must not despair of finding economic minerals. Up to now, a little gold-bearing quartz and copper ores have been found disseminated in quartz veins in the vicinity of Lake Opasatica and near the Ontario boundary. It is also worthy of note that the formation in which gold is found is comparable to that of Larder Lake.

In a westerly direction, molybdenite has been found at several points, amongst others on the Keewagama River, where it is fairly abundant and where bismuth also has been observed.

Further on, on the Harricaw River and on the Bell River, a little copper has been found.

In the surveyed townships east of Lake Temiscamingue a little Cobalt ore has been discovered, but not as yet in commercial quantities and the presence of silver in it is not yet fully confirmed.

The Chibogomo district is more important, but, as it is situated 200 miles from a railway and is difficult of access, no operations can be carried on there until a railway is built. The last prospects have led to the discovery of considerable deposits of copper, of good grade, yielding values of gold, of mispickel iron gold-bearing quartz, of iron pyrite, of magnetic iron and of asbestos, the whole in commercial quantities. Moreover, a slate conglomerate formation, similar to that of Cobalt, has been found and, in some parts of the same, Cobalt bloom, which leads to the hope that other more important discoveries will be made.

The explorations of the Geological Survey, of the Quebec Government and of private companies have established the value of that district.

To sum up, the year 1907 has been a good one in the Province of Quebec and it is probable that the total output will be greater than last year's.