

Natural Gas

The total production of natural gas according to returns received, was 25,238,568 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$3,924,632, as compared with a production in 1915 of 20,124,162 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$3,706,035. The production by provinces was as follows: Ontario 17,838,318 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$2,730,653; New Brunswick 610,118 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$79,628, and Alberta 6,818,131 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$1,114,351.

Petroleum.

There has been comparatively little change in the production of petroleum during the past three years, although since 1907 there has been a distinct falling off. A bounty of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents 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 1916 production in Ontario and New Brunswick was 198,123 barrels on which bounties amounting to \$104,014.13 were paid. The market value of the crude oil at \$1.97 11-12 per barrel amounted to \$392,284. 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 as yet been received from the producers.

Pyrites.

The production of pyrites in 1916 was 309,411 tons, valued at \$1,084,019 and included 130,799 tons, valued at \$523,196 from Quebec, 177,552 tons, valued at \$555,523 from Ontario, and 1,060 tons, valued at \$5,300 from British Columbia. In 1915 the total production was 286,038 tons, valued at \$985,190, which included 142,735 tons, valued at \$570,940 from Quebec, and 143,303 tons, valued at \$414,250 from Ontario.

Salt.

The Canadian salt production is obtained from southern Ontario. The total sales in 1916 were 124,033 tons, valued at \$668,627 (exclusive of the cost of packages). The 1915 sales were 119,900 tons, valued at \$600,226.

In addition to the production of salt, brine is pumped for use in chemical works at Sandwich, Ontario, where caustic soda and bleaching powder are manufactured by the Canadian Salt Co.

GEOLOGY OF KINGSTON AND VICINITY.

The Ontario Bureau of Mines has published a report by M. B. Baker, on the geology of Kingston and vicinity. A section of the report dealing with the Paleozoic strata was prepared by E. M. Kindle. A synopsis of the common fossils of the Kingston area, prepared by Alice E. Wilson and Kirtley F. Mather, is appended.

The report will be especially interesting to students of geology. The area covered has produced a great variety of minerals. Feldspar and mica are the minerals of chief economic importance.

EXPLORATION IN SUDBURY DISTRICT.

Exploration of nickel-copper properties in the Sudbury district will be carried on vigorously this year. Diamond drilling campaigns now under way and planned will keep several drills busy this year.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE—Western Branch.

The twenty-fourth general meeting of the Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, on March 15 and 16. In the unavoidable absence of the chairman of the branch for the current year, Mr. Bruce White, manager for the Noonday Mines, Ltd., Sandon, Slocan, B.C., the chair was filled by Mr. Robert R. Hedley, M. E., of Vancouver, who, the branch secretary (Mr. E. Jacobs, of Victoria) informed the meeting, is one of the oldest members of the Institute resident in British Columbia, his membership dating from 1898.

Afternoon Session.

There was a comparatively large and influential attendance at the opening session, held in the Vancouver Board of Trade's hall on Thursday afternoon, March 15, there having been fully 100 present, including several ladies.

On behalf of the city of Vancouver, and in Mayor McBeath's absence, Alderman Kirk spoke briefly in welcoming the members of the institute to the city. He said that British Columbia's mineral output had increased from \$29,500,000 in 1914 to \$43,000,000 in 1916, and would undoubtedly continue to increase at a rapid rate.

President Greer of the Vancouver Board of Trade welcomed the members of the Institute to the city, and stated that the interests of the two bodies were the same, the general development of the interests of British Columbia. "We have a special mining committee," said Mr. Greer, "and we have also what is known as a Chamber of Mines. You may rest assured that you will have the continued co-operation of the Vancouver Board of Trade. We look to you for advice and assistance, knowing that your findings go a long way toward the development of mining in this province."

The chairman briefly acknowledged the courtesy and kindness of the representatives of the city and Board of Trade, respectively, and reciprocated their good wishes.

Cottrell Process of Dust Precipitation.

Professor J. G. Davidson, of the University of British Columbia, having been invited by the chairman to address the meeting, spoke briefly concerning the Cottrell process of electric precipitation of smelter dust and fumes. He told how, by modern methods, the value which formerly was lost in the form of dust and gases, can now be saved, and that this value in many cases amounts to eight or nine per cent. of the ore recovery. The greatest development in the larger smelters has been in providing facilities for such recovery and he cited what has been done in the great smelters of the United States. He also explained the process of treating mercury ores the metal of which is the most volatile of any known metal, and until recently considered the hardest to control. By modern methods of precipitation, nearly an absolute recovery of the quick-silver content of ores can be made.

"Notes on an Iron and Steel Industry."

Mr. R. R. Hedley spoke on the iron and steel industry. In this connection he said that practically there is no such industry in British Columbia, since the firms which are engaged in manufacturing iron and steel articles depend almost exclusively on scrap iron for their supply.

It has been stated that coal in British Columbia is too costly to be converted into coke; that there are no hematite iron ores available; that labor cannot be