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Editorial	Page
Progress in 1917	473
Status of Oil Flotation Patent Litigation	473
Misleading Report of Committee on Public Printing	474
The Munition Resources Committee's Circular	475
Metal Mining in Manitoba in 1917, by E. L. Bruce	476
Iron and Steel in Canada in 1917	477
Expansion of Ontario's Gold Mining Industry	478
Nickel, by E. P. Mathewson	480
A Successful Year for Cobalt Silver Mining Companies	483
Groch Centrifugal System of Flotation	488
Rich Silver Ore from Cobalt, Ontario, (with illustrations in color)	486
Special Correspondence	489
Markets	494

THE MINERALS SEPARATION N. A. CORPORATION.

In our issue of Nov. 1, we pointed out the urgent necessity of an investigation of the Minerals Separation corporations and their connection with the American branch of the German firm, Beer, Sondheimer & Co. Fortunately, the matter has already been given serious attention by the Government as a result of the activity of the Timiskaming Mine Managers Association.

In this investigation it is well to bear in mind that Beer, Sondheimer & Co. is an alien enemy firm of very dangerous character. An investigation of any firm connected with it in any way should be very thorough. It should be carried on by competent and trustworthy officers until the whole truth is disclosed.

The year has seen great activity in mining. Shortage of labor and high cost of machinery and supplies of all kinds, has been offset by a great demand and good prices for mine products. When the final figures are available it will be shown that the value of Canada's mine products made new records in most cases, while in some there has been an increase in quantity also. In this issue will be found a number of articles reviewing the progress in various districts.

In a period of high prices, gold mining naturally suffers; but even under these circumstances we are able to record great development in this industry. Profits have fallen and payments of dividends have been suspended; but at the mines results have been obtained that assure a wonderful future.

Silver mining companies have at last received what is considered a fair price for silver, and the shortage of the supply indicates that good prices will obtain for some time. This adds materially to the profits and will greatly lengthen the life of the silver mines at Cobalt. The successful introduction of the flotation process has also done much for the silver mining companies, by providing an excellent method of recovering silver from low grade ore and old tailings.

Copper and nickel have continued in great demand. The price of nickel has been advanced slightly. The price of copper has been fixed at a figure which is generally considered fair. The mining of these two metals, so essential for munitions, has been carried on energetically. The refining of nickel in Canada in large quantities has not yet started, but the big plant of the International Nickel Co., at Port Colborne is nearing completion.

Lead and zinc production has been large during the year and a considerable quantity of refined zinc has been shipped from the new plant at Trail. Owing to over production in the United States the price of lead has fallen greatly and in British Columbia there has lately been a set back owing to difficulty in selling the metal.

The mining of molybdenite has become a much more important industry during the year; but natural development is hampered by an embargo which prevents the sale of molybdenite in the open market. It is to be hoped that this embargo will soon be removed. When it is removed a much larger production will be possible, for much higher prices can be obtained in the United States than in Canada.

The great demand for iron and steel has resulted in large increase in production at Canadian plants, but the production of iron ore continues to be only a small fraction of the amount used in Canadian furnaces.

Owing to labor shortage in coal mining districts and to strikes in western districts the production of