

ONTARIO'S METAL PRODUCTION

Returns made to the Bureau of Mines by the metaliferous mines and works of the Province of Ontario for the first three months of 1916, show increases in all products except iron ore. Following are the figures, those for the corresponding period of 1915 being added for comparison:

	Jan.-Mch., 1915.	Jan.-Mch., 1916.	Inc. or Dec.
Gold, oz.	76,307	107,818	*31,511
Silver, oz.	5,230,167	5,297,831	*67,664
Copper, tons	3,644	5,491	*1,847
Nickel, tons	6,680	10,032	*3,352
Iron ore, tons	28,332	6,573	†21,759
Pig iron, tons	94,678	160,749	*66,071
Cobalt, metallic, lb.	450	36,460	*36,010
Nickel, metallic, lb.	11,976	*11,976
Cobalt and nickel oxides, lb.	16,324	143,212	*126,888

*Increase. †Decrease.

The value of the production for the first three months of 1916 was \$14,276,382, as compared with \$9,358,210 for the corresponding period of last year. This large increase was due not only to the greater output but to the higher prices now prevailing for most of the metals.

Gold.—The increase in the yield of gold was 31,511 ounces, worth \$656,872. Compared with the rate of production for the whole of last year the advance was less marked, but developments now under way are likely to lead to a substantial increase. Porcupine provided the bulk of production, namely 99,282 ounces. Hollinger led in output, followed by Dome, Acme, McIntyre-Porcupine, Porcupine Crown, Vipond, Schumacher and Dome Lake in descending order. The mines situate elsewhere making up the remainder of the yield are Tough-Oakes and Croesus. Consolidation of the Hollinger, Acme and Millerton interests will no doubt lead to a more extensive development and a greater output from these properties.

Silver.—A feature of the quarter was an actual increase in the yield of silver as compared with the first three months of 1915, amounting to 67,664 ounces. In value the increase was proportionately greater, namely, \$462,673. This was due to the remarkable rise in the price of silver, amounting to about 50 per cent. over the average figure for 1915. A large part of this increase took place in the latter part of the quarter and afterwards, consequently the benefit of the higher prices was only partially realized during the three months. The natural effect of the advance has been to stimulate both mining and prospecting in Cobalt and to enable low grade ores in the mines or on the dumps to be worked, which at the former low prices of silver were without value. Nipissing continues to lead in quantity of output; Townsite City, Seneca Superior, Kerr Lake, LaRose, Cóniagas, Cobalt Lake, McKinley-Darragh-Savage, Beaver, etc., follow in the order named.

Nickel and Copper.—The demand for nickel and copper, due to the war, has been insatiable, and the Sudbury mines have shown a capacity for meeting the requirements which could scarcely have been anticipated. The output of nickel and copper in the matte was each 50 per cent. greater than in the first three months of 1915. If the present rate of production is maintained throughout the year, 1916 will see about 40,000 tons of nickel and 22,000 tons of copper turned out by the

smelters in the Sudbury district, as against 34,000 tons of nickel and 19,600 tons of copper in 1915. The Canadian Copper Company and the Mond Nickel Company are the producers; the Alexo mine turning out a small quantity of ore which is sold to the Mond company.

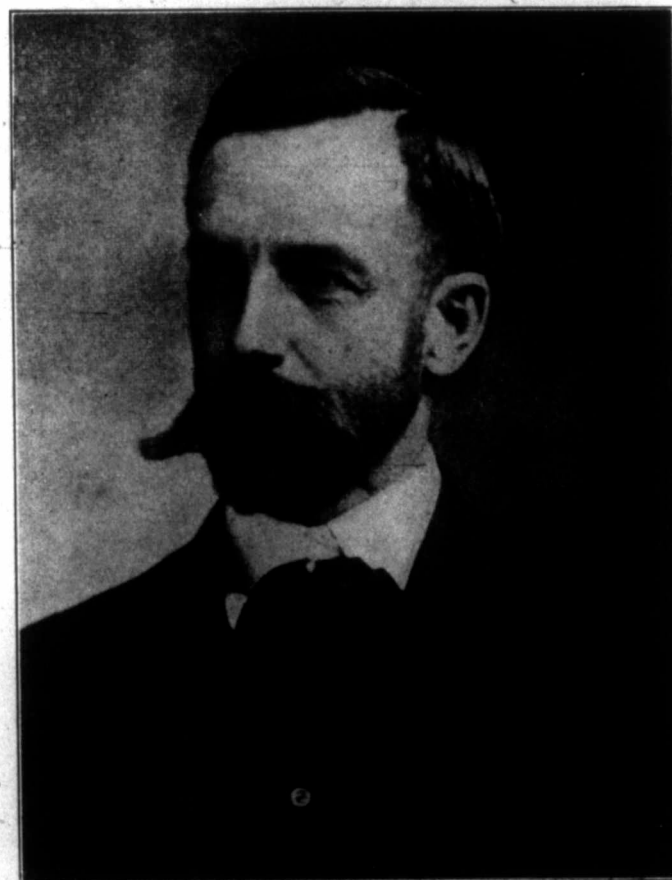
Iron.—The blast furnaces of the Province produced about 70 per cent. more pig iron than they did in the first quarter of 1915, and the product was worth almost 100 per cent. more. About 15 per cent. of the iron ore charged into the furnaces was taken from deposits in Ontario, the remainder coming from the United States.

By-products of Silver.—Cobalt oxide and nickel oxide met with a rather better demand, though the quantities exported are still below those of normal times. Metallic cobalt is coming into use, principally in steel alloys, and there is now a small quantity of nickel refined in Ontario from the silver-cobalt ores of the Cobalt camp.

COBALT AND THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

Cobalt has not only paid for the T. & N. O. Railway twice over, but the people have in the railway, now that it is connected with the National Transcontinental, a valuable property which enhances the value of the agricultural lands and timber limits tributary to it, and offers an incentive to the opening of mineral areas such as Porcupine.

Cobalt has not only brought great profit to the Province of Ontario, but it has established faith in the mineral resources of the great pre-Cambrian regions, which occupy fully one-half of the surface of Canada. Lying on the southern point of these regions, it offers encouragement to the prospecting of the vast, and little known, territories of the hinterland.



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