

COBALT AND THE SILVER MARKET

The rise of one cent in the yearly average price of silver means an additional income to the shipping mines of Cobalt of about \$300,000. The 1912 average price, for instance, with its 7.5 cents rise over 1911, raised the income of Cobalt by \$2,250,000. Those interested in Cobalt keep a watchful eye on the silver market, its prices and factors. Montagu, the London authority, says that the final report of the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency, viewed as a whole, appears to endorse the lines upon which the currency system of India is being developed. Any endeavor to force upon the people of that country a particular form of currency, whether gold, silver, or notes, is distinctly deprecated. This pronouncement is so emphatic and definite, that a reversal of the present practice of meeting the absorption of silver coin by a fresh coinage of rupees, seems to be most unlikely.

In this regard, the report may be considered as favorable to silver, for it is the considered judgment of a well qualified commission after an exhaustive inquiry, and is therefore a weighty reminder to the world that the populous countries of the east must purchase largely for coinage, and continue to figure as substantial factors in the silver market. The importance of this conclusion will be recognized when it is remembered that a large silver demand must take place for Asia, whether its currency systems be based on, or maintained on a par with gold, or whether the countries possess a silver standard alone. In view of the fact that Canada is one of the largest producers of silver in the world, the above opinion expressed by a well-known authority, that the constant demand

throughout the countries of Asia for silver for coinage purposes must continue to have an important effect on the price of silver, is of importance to the silver-mining industry.

Canada is third in the list of silver producing countries, as the following figures show:—

	Fine ounces	
	1911.	1912.
Mexico	79,032,440	76,500,000
United States	60,399,400	62,369,903
Canada	32,740,748	35,250,000
Australasia	16,578,421	17,950,000
Other countries	36,621,835	37,500,000
Total	225,372,844	229,569,903

Cobalt is contributing by far the largest share of Canada's silver production. Of the 35,250,000 fine ounces mined in the Dominion in 1912, or 15 per cent. of the world's production, Cobalt was responsible for 13 per cent., or 30,500,000 ounces.

Mexico is trying to raise money in London by offering £700,000 6 per cent. trust certificates. As our office boy says, these securities are not Huerta continental.

Mr. F. H. Malcolm, whose operations in connection with the Western Canneries and other enterprises, *The Monetary Times* exposed in 1906 and several times since, is busy again in Western Canada. A wink is as good as a nod to the wise investor.

HARD LUCK, NOW HARD CASH

**Oil Strike at Calgary Has Turned the Countryside's Head
—Some Counsel**

(Special Correspondence.)

Calgary, Alberta, May 19th.

Calgary is passing through an exciting experience. The striking of oil in the Dingman well on Thursday brought out such a large number of people with money to invest in oil companies and oil lands, that the city for the time being became a big stock market. With the exception of Sunday, which, notwithstanding the eagerness of so many to buy, was kept on the quiet, orderly lines of Canadian custom, buying and selling shares has gone on incessantly. An average of probably three-quarters of a million dollars daily of local money swelled the coffers of the development companies, which were simply overwhelmed by the rush of buyers. Eighth Avenue and First Street West were converted into Wall Streets of respectable dimensions.

The surprising thing to even the most optimistic was the steady stream of hard cash where but a week ago so many pleaded a hard luck story. Prices rose as if by magic. Dollar shares, begging for takers at ten cents each, went aeroplaning to the par value. Shares at par trebled and quadrupled. The news from the oil field south of the city, the personal visits to the well of those who had to see with their own eyes to be convinced, set the pace for the market.

Rented to Oil Brokers.

When the few vacant stores on the leading thoroughfares had been rented to oil brokers, a process of doubling up was resorted to to accommodate the insistent crowds. Ground floor space was soon at a premium, as office after office flung out its announcement of what it had to sell. Curb brokers made hundreds, in some cases thousands, of dollars, and they say the best is yet to come.

The morning of the fifth working day since the strike saw the telegraph business of the local offices increased

thirty per cent. by inquiries and replies from this continent and Europe. From the McDougall-Segur well, which is one of the two pioneers in drilling, came the announcement that at the depth of 2,410 feet a similar strata to that encountered in the Discovery well had been perforated, and a corresponding rush of gasoline might be expected at any time. Fourteen new drilling outfits were ordered yesterday, one company alone purchasing three standard outfits. At the Dominion Land Office the receipts were \$14,000, principally on oil leases, at 25 cents per acre.

Banks Giving and Taking.

Men, women, and children are holders of shares, varying in price from five cents to one hundred dollars. The banks and trust companies have yielded their savings deposits in an immense number of small sums, only to have the same redeposited in blocks by the companies. Even the street railway receipts responded to the general loosening of funds, and what promised to be a rather indifferent month for Calgary's pet public utility, is in a fair way to return a good profit. Nearby cities and towns contributed their share to the general outpouring of cash. Central hotels and restaurants did a good business. Oil is the sole topic. The press generally points out the wonderful possibilities of the future, at the same time urging investors to keep cool and investigate before parting with their money.

The exact location of Discovery well is Section 6, Township 20, Range 2, west of the fifth meridian, but for many miles in each direction the land is held under oil leases.

Of the Other Side.

[While *The Monetary Times* wishes the new oil discoveries every success, it also desires to warn investors in regard to the purchase of the shares of oil companies. Those who have gone through previous "booms" should have enough sense to hang on to their money now. Those who are in the whirl of gambling excitement for the first time, should endeavor to create a new record and keep out of the dangerous eddies. Savings are savings—and scrip is scrip. Savings will always buy a meal.—Editor, *The Monetary Times*.]