

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXIV.

TORONTO, January 15, 1913.

No. 2

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada.

Published fortnightly by the

MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office - Room 36, Canadian Birkbeck Building, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

Branch Office - 34B Board of Trade Building

London Office - Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane London, E.C.

U. S. A. Office - Ward & Smith, 931 Tribune Building, New York

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd 1879."

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THE ONTARIO REPORT

The twenty-first Annual Report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, 1911, dated 1912, has just been received. The most final compliment that can be paid to this publication is that it is better than those that have been published before.

The Statistical Review by Mr. Thos. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, covers the main facts of mineral production in the Province. It is noteworthy that at present 70 per cent. of all the mineral output falls under the category metalliferous. The total value of the mineral output is placed at \$41,976,797. This implies an increase of 87 per cent. during six years. But while both classes of products were almost on a parity five years ago, now the metalliferous products out-value the non-metalliferous by much more than two to one.

Here we may quote Mr. Gibson's own words: "While the past year was not one of sensational discoveries or the opening up of new and important mineral fields, it was one of steady progress and active production. The silver mines of Cobalt touched high-water mark, the nickel-copper deposits of Sudbury were but little behind their output of 1910 (the largest yet), the natural gas fields yielded nearly 50 per cent. more than last year, the blast furnaces turned out more pig iron, the brick and tile yards more brick and tile, the quarries more stone, and the long list of lesser industries, concerned in the production of other materials were, in general, more busily engaged. At least one promising mineral area has been revealed by the untiring prospector—that at West Shining Tree Lake . . . For the first time in the Province [also] mercury was recognized . . . Tungsten [also] was discovered in the form of scheelite by Mr. A. G. Burrows."

Ontario has a tremendous lead on all the other Provinces. In 1911 its mineral production was valued at \$41,976,797. For 1912, the figure, according to the best authorities, will be about \$45,000,000; which is practically 40 per cent. of the whole Dominion's output. It is in accord with the direction of modern progress that Ontario is adding to the staff of its Bureau of Mines. That Bureau has already distinguished servants. Its aim appears to be in the right and proper direction. The only possibly fair criticism is that it needs more mining officials.

The Annual Report includes several reports of utmost interest. Two have appeared in these columns. The list covers pretty well the whole of Ontario. Swastika is written up. The Lake of the Woods, Manitou and Dryden, Cripple Creek, and West Shining Tree are