

At a meeting of the Toronto Bee Keepers' Association held recently, the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario announced that the value of last year's crop of honey in the province exceeded \$3,000,000.

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## Canada's Mining Industry

### Important Find in Township of Butt

FROM OUR TORONTO CORRESPONDENT.

That a discovery made in the township of Butt, in the Nipissing district, may result in Canada's position as a mineral-producing country being greatly strengthened, is the opinion of Albert Trafford, a mining expert at present in Toronto. Mr. Trafford has been prospecting in the district for a number of years and this year he has again been engaged in working his own two properties which he has already stripped and opened several dikes which have produced pitch-blende. Prospecting work on adjoining properties has also met with similar success, and Mr. Trafford is confident that the pitch-blende contains radium in sufficient quantity to encourage development. The properties on which the discoveries have been made are close to the borders of Algonquin National Park and about 22 miles from Kearney. A study of the geology of the country shows that there are numberless dikes of granite pegmatite, and it is in these dikes that the pitch-blende occurs ... Butt Township. William Elliot, of Chicago, who was interested in the possibilities by Mr. Trafford, states that the pitch-blende so far uncovered in the properties in Butt Township occur in grains about the size of a pea but that he has found masses as large as a hen's egg.

Decision has been reserved in the case involving an appeal by the M. J. O'Brien, Limited, against a former decision in favor La Rose Consolidated, the dispute having to do with the proper location of the boundary between the Vilet property of the La Rose and the O'Brien Mines.

The work of constructing a bridge suitable for wagon traffic over the Blanche River at Boston Creek, is under way and within a few weeks it will be possible to divert the major portion of traffic to the Skead gold area by way of Boston Creek, the distance to the railway being reduced to about one-half that formerly made necessary by having to travel by way of Englehart.

According to the report submitted at the annual meeting of the Mining Corporation of Canada held in Toronto on Saturday June 5th, the profits

on the years operations were \$908,000 for what was really only ten months, owing to the strike, compared with \$925,000 in the previous year. The Mining Corporation is an outgrowth of the old Townsite Mine, to which was subsequently added the Cobalt Lake, City of Cobalt, Cobalt Station ground, Little Nipissing and Buffalo. It was announced that the Corporation is associated with W. B. Thompson and Co. of New York in the option on the Flin Flon Mine in northwestern Manitoba. This great copper property is now being explored by the sinking of shafts and doing a number of drifts on the vein, with a view to confirming the diamond drill results which indicated twenty to thirty million tons of copper ore in sight. The option runs until next March, but the development work may justify decisive action before that time. It is estimated that a total capital outlay in connection with that project of \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 would be necessary to bring it to a completed stage. The Mining Corporation since its formation has paid dividends amounting to \$5,083,862, exclusive of the current dividend of almost \$250,000 soon to be paid. The former Board of Directors and officers were elected as follows: Sir Henry M. Pellat, C.V.O., President; J. P. Watson, First Vice President; W. R. P. Parker, Second Vice President; G. M. Clark, J. G. Watson, Thomas Plunkett and D'Arcy Weatherbe.

Among the new companies incorporated during the past week as announced in the Ontario Gazette are the following: Trans-Canada Explorers, Limited, head office, Toronto and capital stock of \$200,000, the provisional directors being W. R. M. Hess, S. H. Brown and C. A. Spence; Northern Extension Cobalt Mines, Limited, head office, Toronto, with a capital stock of \$100,000, the provisional directors being J. L. Ross, A. B. Mortimer and A. Holmstead; Harvey-Kirkland Gold Mines, Limited, head office, Toronto, capital stock \$1,500,000, the provisional directors being D. I. Grant, Edwin Smily, Arthur Mason, James S. Bell and Isabel Clement.

## Why Retail Prices Are Increasing

Scarcity of goods and scarcity of workmen—or their indisposition to work—have brought unreasonable increases in wages. At the end of 1917 the average weekly earnings in New York State factories were about 16 per cent below normal, as compared with the cost of food; in March, 1920, earnings were nearly 10 per cent above the normal equality. During the same period New York wages had risen 60 per cent, while Bradstreet's index of wholesale commodity prices had risen only 18 per cent.

In 1915 the U. S. Steel Corporation produced 84 tons of steel per man employed in manufacturing it. Up to that date production per man had shown a gradual irregular increase. In 1917 production had fallen to 76 tons per man, and in 1919 to 64 tons. In the meantime the average wage

and salary per man had risen from \$925 in 1915 to \$1,905 in 1919. Even in purchasing power, this \$1,905 was equal to about 1,000 of the dollars of 1915. Each man was receiving 8 per cent more in purchasing power for doing less work.

Such figures are sensational. It is clear that business profits in general cannot long be maintained under such conditions, and that full business activity cannot be permanently based upon a relationship between wages paid and work done. Unreasonably high wages and profits have temporarily inflated the prices of "consumption goods." But economic equilibrium seeks its level, like water, though not so quickly, and that is the fundamental cause of the fall in retail prices now recorded.—From "The Outlook" of THE MAGAZINE OF WALL STREET, for May 29, 1920.

In an appeal to Quebec farmers urging them to complete the agricultural questionnaires sent them, the Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture, states that in the last six years the province has increased its area under cultivation by 63 per

cent, the value of its field crops by 310 per cent, and that dairy products have more than doubled in value. In 1914, the average farm in the province was worth \$47 per acre and is now worth \$72 per acre.