

Halifax, in December, brought out very little that was not said at the first trial. The decision of the full bench is expected about the middle of January, and until the case is finally disposed of, comment on the merits of the points under dispute would be superfluous and unwise.

No industrial disputes have occurred in Cape Breton during the last twelve months. The P. W. A. took the aggressive during the spring of the year, and refused to work with non-unionists. Their action resulted in several days of idleness, but the ultimate result was that most of the non-unionists joined the Association.

The three years' agreement between the P.W.A. and the Dominion Coal Company expired with 1907, and the men refused the Coal Company's proffer of a renewal of the contract upon the old term. They have made a demand on all the coal operators of Nova Scotia for a 15 per cent. increase on day labor, for a minimum fixed rate of \$2.44 for all miners out of places, employed temporarily at other work, and for higher wages to all night shift men. The Dominion Coal Company announced on December 5th, that they would put a new schedule of rates into effect in the 6th of January. This schedule raises the price of workmen's coal from 90 cents, inclusive of hauling, to \$1.50 for runmine and \$1.00 for slack, exclusive of hauling; makes a cut of 4 1-2 cents in the pillar rate, and a few minor changes in the cutting rates. The whole of the gain to the company under these changes is to be applied in increasing the wages of the day laborer and loader, or in other words, the amount of money disbursed on the Coal Company's payrolls is to be more fairly distributed amongst its employees at the mines. The P.W.A. have applied to the Minister of Labor for a Board of Conciliation and Investigation under the Lemieux Act, and have appointed their representative in Dr. Arthur Kendall, M.P. Further developments will be awaited with interest, but no one thinks that any serious trouble will arise.

To sum up, we think it is safe to prophesy that from now on the coal production of Cape Breton will very steadily increase. Many of the older mines are becoming less productive, but new developments are under way to take their place. While many portions of the Dominion are feeling the pinch of poverty and financial tightness, Cape Breton is a place where work is plentiful and prosperity apparent. The revenues of Cape Breton are not dependent on the vagaries of the weather, and although we are very far East here, Cape Breton in many respects offers inducements that the much advertised West does not, particularly to the working miner.

THE TYRRELL PRIZE.

FOR THE BEST COLLECTION OF ONTARIO MINERALS.

We are authorized by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, mining engineer, to state that in order to encourage investigation into the mineral resources of the Province of Ontario, he will give a prize of \$100.00 in cash to any Canadian, not in the employ of a public institution or mineral dealer, who will personally make the best collection of minerals in the Province of Ontario during the year 1908.

The collection must consist of thirty or more mineral species.

Each specimen must be labelled with the exact locality from which it was obtained and the date on which it was collected. No specimen will be considered unless it is so labelled.

As far as possible all minerals must be correctly named.

A typewritten list of the specimens, with names of minerals and localities, in triplicate, along with a declaration stating that they were personally collected by the signer in the Province of Ontario in 1908 at the locality stated, must be sent in with each collection.

Prof. T. L. Walker, of Toronto University and Prof. W. Nicol, of Queen's University have kindly consented to examine the collections and award the prize, and the collections must be sent to them at some place which they will designate later, on or before the 1st of December, 1908. After the prize is awarded the collections may again be obtained by the owners.

ONTARIO'S ESTIMATED OUTPUT—1907.

T. W. GIBSON, Deputy Minister of Mines.

The mining industry in Ontario reached high-water mark in 1907. Of silver and nickel, the two chief metallic products, the output was large. The Province is now contributing to the world's store of silver a quantity surpassed by three States of the American Union only. For the twelve months just closed the production of silver in Ontario may safely be estimated at not less than 9,000,000 ounces, practically the whole output being from the mines of Cobalt. The rise of this camp has been rapid; in 1904, which was the first year of production, some 206,875 ounces only were obtained. The whole yield down to the end of 1907 may be placed at about 22,000 tons of ore, containing 17,100,000 ounces of silver.

The production of the Sudbury nickel fields was on a scale similar to that of last year, when there were raised 10,776 tons of nickel and 5,260 tons of copper. In nickel Ontario easily leads the world, her only competitor, New Caledonia, having been left behind some years ago.

In iron ore the bulk of the tonnage still comes from the Helen mine, but the magnetite deposits of Moose Mountain, Bessemer, Atikokan, Wilbur and elsewhere are beginning to assume considerable importance. It is in every way likely that large shipments from all the points named will be made during 1908. The production of iron ore during the first nine months of 1907 was 141,719 tons. There are now seven iron furnaces in the Province, two having been added during the past year—one at Hamilton and one at Port Arthur.

There were important developments in the petroleum and natural gas fields of Ontario in 1907. The Tilbury East oil field is now producing nearly as much as Petrolea and Oil Springs, and the gas area of Tilbury and Romney is being steadily extended, especially towards the south. Other non-metallic products contribute to the general total, among them being salt, corundum, iron pyrites, feldspar and mica, most of which are produced chiefly in the eastern part of the Province.

The heavy fall in the prices of silver and copper will probably tend to keep down the production of these metals, especially the latter, in 1908. But despite temporary checks, the progress of mining in this Province, which has been most marked during the last few years, can hardly fail to continue at a similar, if not a greater rate.

Beginning January 1st, 1908, Mr. C. L. Rameau will be general manager of the West Canadian Collieries, Limited, with head office at Blairmore, Alberta. In future all communications should be addressed to Mr. Rameau.