BIG FUTURE FOR MINING INDUSTRY

Better Chances Here of Locating Valuable Minerals Than in Any Other Country

Our total mineral production amounts now to over $150,000,000 annually. This year's production will probably be $165,000,000.

These statements were made by Mr. A. A. Cole, mining engineer of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway and president of the Canadian Mining Institute, in an instructive address to the Empire Club, Toronto, yesterday. While admitting agriculture as the greatest industry in Canada, Mr. Cole drew attention to the fact that 47 per cent. of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway's total freight revenue during the past five years was derived from minerals. Taking the whole of Canada, minerals contributed in the year ended March, 1913, 38 per cent of the railroad freight, agriculture 16 per cent. and manufactures 14.8 per cent.

Minerals and War.

The speaker then dealt with the vital importance of mineral resources in connection with the war, pointing out that the principal French coal field, and that one now in the possession of the Germans, is the field of Valenciennes, which is the continuation of the main Belgian field, the whole being known as the Hainault Basin. The coal output of France for the year 1913 was 40 million tons, the bulk of which was probably supplied by the Valenciennes field.

The iron-bearing formation outcrops in the German acquired province of Lorraine, but the deposits continue in gradually increasing depth coming west in French territory. The French engineers soon located the continuation of these iron deposits by means of bore-holes and at once began development, and in the face of considerable difficulties by the year 1914 they had developed a larger iron industry than was on the German side of the line, and had greater ore reserves. The French deposits occur in what is known as the Briey valley, and these form one of the most important iron ore areas in Europe. The production of this area in 1913 was about 30 million tons. This area has been in the possession of the Germans since the beginning of the war, and it has been estimated that last year it supplied 60 per cent. of the total German iron ore production.

Mr. Cole stated that if the Germans could have made a breach in the French lines at Verdun, which was one of the strongest points in the line, it would mean that the French would have to consolidate their lines at a considerable distance from Verdun, and this would not only relieve Metz, but would remove the valuable iron deposits from the immediate danger zone.

Canada Leads in These.

Mr. Cole then mentioned some gratifying features in regard to the place of our mineral resources in their international place. "In a list of our mineral resources," he said, "you will find that few of the important ones are missing, and in some of those we lead the world.

"Our coal resources are the greatest in the world.

"Our asbestos deposits in the Eastern Townships of the province of Quebec supply most of the asbestos of commerce.

"The greatest nickel deposits in the world are located at Sudbury. Ontario has the largest body of high-grade talc on the continent at Madoc; the largest body of high-grade feldspar on the continent in the Richardson mine near Verona; the greatest mica mine on the continent at Sydenham, and the greatest graphite mine at Calabogie, and a recent molybdenite find within thirty-five miles of Ottawa may soon outstrip all rivals.

"We also have one of the richest silver camps in the world at Cobalt, and the most promising of the younger gold camps on the continent at Porcupine.

Our smelters at Deloro and Thorold also produce more refined cobalt than all the other refineries in the world put together.

"With such a magnificent heritage we would be very delinquent in our duty if we did not give the mineral industry the careful attention that it deserves."

Mr. Cole thought there is good reason to believe that "we are now exporting a great quantity of raw material which could be much more profitable, so far as the national interests are concerned, if made the basis of manufacturing industries at home; and also importing supplies, a considerable proportion of which we could quite readily and most advantageously produce ourselves. In some cases it will be necessary merely to indicate the opportunities that exist for the establishment of new industries to effect the desired end; but in other instances government encouragement will be required.

Bright Future Ahead.

Speaking of the future, Mr. Cole said there is certain to be legislation introduced regarding the Canadian mineral industry. This will receive more intelligent treatment if we have a public well informed on the subject to back it up. He concluded: "Anyone who looked over the unbroken forest of Northern Ontario a dozen years ago and predicted that this district would soon be producing twenty millions in gold and silver annually would have been put down as a fantastic dreamer. But that is a fact to-day, and the output is continually increasing. And yet only a small portion of the country has been prospected. Running north-east and north-west from Cobalt and extending to the Arctic ocean is the great Canadian pre-Cambrian shield, the basement formation of the continent. It contains thousands of square miles and offers to prospectors better chances of locating valuable mineral deposits than can be found in any other country in the world.

"Turning from such a past record and looking forward into the future, it requires no very vivid imagination to see other Cobalts and other Porcupines converting the wilderness into thriving hives of industry."

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS

The following are the shipments of ore, in pounds, from Cobalt Station for the week ended December 2nd:—

Hudson Bay Mines, 62,608; Dominion Reduction Company, 86,000. Total, 148,608 pounds, or 74.3 tons.

From Elk Lake—

Miller Lake O'Brien Mines, 51,900 pounds.

The total shipments since January 1st, 1916, now amount to 29,411,176 pounds, or 14,705.5 tons.

NEW DIRECTORS OF GREAT-WEST PERMANENT LOAN

The new board of directors of the Great-West Permanent Loan Company, of which Mr. W. T. Alexander is the president, is made up as follows:—Messrs. W. T. Alexander, Hon. A. C. Rutherford of Edmonton, J. H. G. Russell, Winnipeg; J. G. Hargrave, R. G. Affleck, D. E. Sprague, E. L. Taylor, S. D. Lazier, Dr. A. D. Carscallen and F. H. Alexander.

These directors will also control the Imperial Canadian Trust Company and the Canada National Fire Company, the allied companies.

Dr. E. S. Popham, Captain William Robinson, E. D. Martin and E. F. Hutchings, who have been directors of the Great-West Permanent Loan Company, have resigned and all their stock in the company has been purchased.

DRYDOCK FOR VANCOUVER

An Ottawa dispatch says:—Arrangements have been completed for the construction of a large floating drydock at Vancouver. The structure will be a 16,000-ton, double-section dock, capable of handling a boat of 18,000 tons, which is the measure of maximum requirements on the Pacific to-day. The company is the Vancouver Drydocks, Limited, with Mr. Charles Meek, of Vancouver, as the moving spirit. Bonds to the amount of two million dollars have been sold to Breed, Elliott & Harrison, of Cincinnati. A ship repair and shipbuilding plant is a part of the plan decided upon. Contracts for construction and machinery are being let, and the company announces that it will have the dock in operation within a year. There will be subsidy aid from the governments of both the Dominion of Canada and the province of British Columbia, on the ground that the dock will be a commercial and naval asset.

Steamers sailing from Canadian ports on the Pacific at present are forced to dock for repairs at Hong Kong, at Kobe, Japan, or in Australia.