

## MINING IN QUEBEC.

The Mines Branch Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, of the Province of Quebec, has just issued preliminary details of the mineral production of the Province of Quebec in 1917.

According to the returns, the total value of mineral production in the year amounted to \$16,051,188, an increase of 21 per cent, as compared with the previous year. This is very gratifying as these figures are the highest ever recorded.

The general table of production shows that the Province of Quebec possesses mines of asbestos, chromite, copper, kaolin, graphite, iron, magnesite, mica, iron, oxides, molybdenite, zinc and lead, besides the structural materials.

## COMPARATIVE TOTALS.

The table which follows gives the total figures of the province for each year since 1900. It will be seen that in eighteen years the value of the mineral output has grown from 2½ million dollars to 16 million dollars, an increase at the rate of 540 per cent.

Year.	Value.
1900 .....	\$2,546,076
1901 .....	2,997,731
1902 .....	2,985,463
1903 .....	2,772,762
1904 .....	3,023,568
1905 .....	3,750,300
1906 .....	5,019,932
1907 .....	5,391,368
1908 .....	5,458,998
1909 .....	5,552,062
1910 .....	7,323,281
1911 .....	8,679,786
1912 .....	11,187,110
1913 .....	13,119,811
1914 .....	11,732,783
1915 .....	11,465,873
1916 .....	13,287,024
1917 .....	16,051,188

## THE COMPLETE DETAILS.

In the following comparative table is shown the production and value of the mines in the province, in detail:—

During the calendar year, the number of men employed in the mines, quarries and concentrating mills was 6,311 as compared to 6,601 the preceding year. These figures are on the basis of 300 days work. The work in the mines was unusually active, notwithstanding the very rainy weather. Although a large number of men, new to conditions of the mines, have found employment, the total number of accidents was much less than in 1916, being 4 against 18. The total number of accidents reported to the Bureau of Mines during 1917 was 172.

The proportion of fatalities per 1,000 year men of 300 days work is 0.6.

## COPPER AND SULPHUR ORE.

The shortage of mine labor and transportation difficulties seriously interfered with the production of copper and sulphur ore in the Eastern Townships. The ore is a copper bearing iron pyrites, which is used for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, the resulting cinders being sent to copper smelters. In

1917, the quantity of copper-sulphur ore extracted from Quebec mines was 122,822 tons, valued at \$1,205,242. This is a decrease, both in tonnage and value as compared with 1916, and much below what was expected, considering the keen demand for pyrite.

The production of zinc and lead ores amounted to 4,618 tons, valued at \$242,778.

The total production of chromite in 1917 shows record figures. From the Coleraine-Black Lake district, and from the new deposit worked in the Danville district, 35,726 tons were shipped, representing a total value of \$495,981. In 1916, the figures were 27,952 tons, valued at \$312,901.

## MOLYBDENITE.

The Province of Quebec possesses the largest individual producing mine of molybdenite in the world in the Moss mine, in Onslow township, operated by the Dominion Molybdenite Company. This company has a large concentrator, of a capacity of 150 tons of rock a day, using the Callow process for the separation. During 1917, extensive diamond drilling operations were carried on, which blocked out large reserves of ore.

The shipments of magnesite, crude, calcined and dead burned, reached 58,090 tons, representing a value of \$728,275. As compared with 1916 this is a proportional increase in value of 38.5 per cent. This increase is to some extent due to the fact that two producing companies are now making dead-burned magnesite. For this purpose, these companies are using the kilns of cement works in Montreal and in Hull, which were not operating on the manufacture of cement during the year.

## CANADIAN EXPORTS SHOW INCREASE.

Ottawa, March 16.

A tremendous increase in exports of Canadian produce in February, 1918, as compared with February, 1917, is shown in figures prepared by the customs department for the cost of living branch of the Department of Labor.

The exports of butter in February of this year as compared with February, 1917, have increased from about 50,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds, of cheese from 3,600,000 pounds to about five million pounds, eggs from 95,000 to 134,000 dozen, bacon and ham from 15,600,000 pounds to 16,150,000. The export of fresh, frozen and pickled pork alone showed a decrease. In February, 1917, there were exported 960,000 pounds, this year only 113,000. This is largely due to the fact that pork is converted into bacon or ham for export.

The increase in export of Canadian pork is however very much greater this year as the import of pork which comes chiefly from United States in February, 1918, was only 870,000 pounds, as compared with 12,000,000 pounds in February of last year. The imports of bacon and ham were only 34,000 pounds this year as compared with 2,000,000 pounds last year. The imports of the other commodities also show a slight decrease. In February, 1918, there were about 100,000 dozen eggs imported as compared with 340,000 dozen in February, 1917.

Substance.		Production, 1917		Value in 1916.
		Quantity.	Value.	
Asbestos .....	Tons .....	137,242	\$ 7,198,558	\$ 5,182,905
Asbestic .....	Tons .....	17,210	42,139	28,252
Chromite .....	Tons .....	35,726	495,981	312,901
Copper and Sulphur ore .....	Tons .....	122,822	1,205,242	1,259,064
Feldspar and kaolin .....	Tons .....	2,028	19,969	38,260
Glass sand .....	Tons .....	.....	.....	24,140
Gold .....	Oz. ....	1,116	22,570	13,041
Graphite .....	Lb. ....	1,078,000	99,024	75,776
Iron Ore .....	Tons .....	11,593	31,365	.....
Magnesite .....	Tons .....	58,090	728,275	525,966
Mica .....	Lb. ....	961,237	282,153	177,814
Mineral waters .....	Gals. ....	39,318	6,541	18,574
Mineral Paint (ochre) .....	Tons .....	9,252	69,536	62,875
Molybdenite .....	Lb. ....	207,286	158,096	129,267
Phosphate, Titaniferous iron ore, Quartz .....	Tons .....	7,547	30,995	14,242
Silver .....	Oz. ....	96,620	78,880	38,113
Zinc and Lead ores .....	Tons .....	4,618	242,778	107,348
Structural Materials.				
Brick .....	M. ....	55,699	503,688	762,689
Cement .....	Bbbls. ....	2,079,404	3,264,664	2,525,841
Granite .....	.....	137,159	237,159	292,270
Lime .....	Bush. ....	1,274,969	280,527	276,245
Limestone and Marble .....	.....	.....	739,228	978,945
Sand .....	.....	.....	131,465	168,891
Sandstone .....	Tons .....	.....	7,475	8,190
Slate and Flagstone .....	Square. ....	1,422	7,885	6,223
Tile drain and sewer pipe, pottery, etc. ....	.....	.....	266,995	259,192
			\$16,051,188	\$13,287,024

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