

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN CANADA IN 1915

By John McLeish

(Continued from last issue)

Asbestos.

The asbestos production in 1915 was obtained from the same field in Quebec as heretofore. The output was less than in 1914, but sales showed an increase of about 17 per cent. Stocks on hand at the end of the year showed a noticeable decrease.

The total output in 1915 was 106,558 tons, as against 107,668 tons in 1914, showing a decrease of 1,110 tons or 1.03 per cent. The sales and shipments during 1915 were 113,115 tons valued at \$3,491,450, or an average of \$30.87 per ton, as against sales in 1914 of 96,542 tons valued at \$2,892,266 or an average of \$29.92 per ton. The 1915 sales were larger in quantity than those of 1914 by about 17 per cent. and in value by about 20 per cent.

Stocks on hand at December 31st, 1915, were 22,052 tons, as compared with stocks on hand of 31,171 at the end of the previous year.

The number of men employed in the mines or quarries and mills were 2,393 and the amount paid in wages was \$1,089,976 as against 2,992 men employed in 1914 to whom was paid in wages \$1,283,977.

The total quantity of asbestos rock milled during the year is reported as 1,795,472 tons, which with a mill production of 102,571 tons shows an average estimated content of about 5.71 per cent. of asbestos fibre in the rock. The estimated content of fibre in rock milled in 1914 was 6.03 per cent.

The output and sales of crude and mill stock are shown in the table following. The classification is based on valuation: Crude No. 1 comprising material valued at \$200 per ton and upwards, and Crude No. 2 material valued at less than \$200 per ton; Mill stock No. 1 including mill fibre valued at \$30 and upwards, Mill stock No. 2, mill fibre valued at \$15 to \$30 per ton,

1914 valued at \$2,298,646 or an average of \$28.35 per ton. There was also an export of asbestos sand amounting to 25,103 tons valued at \$157,410 or an average of \$6.27 per ton and of manufactures of asbestos valued at \$125,003.

Imports of asbestos manufactures for the year amounted to \$168,894.

Chromite.

From 1910 to 1914 inclusive no chromite was mined in Canada, and only a few small shipments were made from stock; but in 1915, according to returns received, shipments amounted to 11,486 tons, valued at \$162,618.

In the early summer the demand for chromite in the United States led to considerable activity in the chromite-producing area in the vicinity of Black Lake and Coleraine, Quebec. Old dumps were picked over, and old pits re-opened. During the summer months ore averaging probably less than 30 per cent. Cr_2O_3 found a ready market, but towards the close of the year buyers were insisting on a 35 per cent. ore.

The exports of chromite according to Customs records were 7,290 tons valued at \$81,838 or an average of \$11.23 per ton.

Coal and Coke.

Coal.—The total production of marketable coal for the year 1915, comprising sales and shipments, colliery consumption, and coal used in making coke, or used otherwise by colliery operators, was 13,209,371 short tons valued at \$31,957,757, as against 13,637,529 tons valued at \$33,471,801 in 1914 showing a decrease of 428,158 tons, or 3.14 per cent. in quantity, and of \$1,514,044 or 4.52 per cent. in total value.

In estimating the values of the coals arbitrary values are assumed for the Nova Scotia and British Columbia

Output Sales and Stocks of Asbestos in 1915.

	Output		Sales		Stock on hand Dec. 31		
	Tons	Tons	Value	Per ton	Tons	Value	Per ton
Crude No. 1.....	2,305.6	2,735.4	749,811	274.11	589.8	176,533	299.31
Crude No. 2.....	1,681.6	2,631.3	322,049	122.39	316.6	43,006	135.84
Mill stock, No. 1.....	21,710	24,238	1270,074	52.40	2,176	91,919	42.24
Mill stock, No. 2.....	41,973	42,031	840,132	19.99	12,837	268,197	20.89
Mill stock, No. 3.....	38,888	41,479	309,384	7.46	6,133	55,555	9.06
Asbestos.....	106558.2	113114.7	3491,450	30.87	22,052.4	635,210	28.80
Asbestic.....		25,700	21,819	0.85.....			

and Mill stock No. 3 mill fibre valued at less than \$15 per ton.

The total sales of crude asbestos in 1915 were 5,366.7 tons valued at \$1,071,860 or an average of \$199.72 per ton as against sales in 1914 of 4,147.9 tons valued at \$773,193 or an average of \$186.42 per ton.

The total sales of Mill stock in 1915 were 107,748 tons valued at \$2,419,590 or an average of \$22.46 per ton, as against sales in 1914 of 92,394 tons valued at \$2,119,073, or an average of \$21.64 per ton.

There was also a production of asbestic of 25,700 tons valued at \$21,819.

Exports of asbestos during the calendar year 1915 were 84,584 tons valued at \$2,734,695 or an average of \$32.45 per ton, as against exports of 81,081 tons in

production, viz.: \$2.50 per long ton for the former and \$3.50 per long ton for the latter. The values used for coal production in the other provinces are those furnished by the operators.

The Nova Scotia production was 7,429,888 tons, an increase of 58,964 tons, or 0.8 per cent. over that of 1914; the Alberta, production 3,320,431 tons, a decrease of 362,584 tons or 9.8 per cent., the British Columbia production 2,089,966 tons, a decrease of 149,833 tons, or 6.7 per cent.; the Saskatchewan production 236,940 tons, an increase of 4,641 tons, or about 2 per cent.; the New Brunswick production 122,422 tons, an increase of 24,373 tons, or 24.85 per cent.; and Yukon Territory, a production of 9,724 tons, a decrease of 3,719, or 28 per cent.