

Mineral Wealth Along the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway

gan to come in. The early gold finds all proved disappointing and the old saying that "gold in paying quantities would never be found in Ontario" was often heard repeated. The history of early gold mining in Western Ontario, as in the Lake-of-the-Woods district, tended to strengthen the idea.

In the Autumn of 1909 promising gold claims were staked in the Porcupine Lake District, 100 miles north of Cobalt and 30 miles West of the Government Railway. In the early winter the trail was crowded with an eager throng with pack-sack and toboggan, an occasional dog team being seen, and a genuine gold rush was in progress. A sleigh road was soon cut through to the new camp and the trip from the railway, that had previously taken three or four days to walk, could be made in one day by driving. Before Spring practically every claim for miles around the early discoveries was staked. It was fortunate that the best discoveries soon passed into strong financial hands, so that in the troublous days that followed, before actual production could begin, sufficient capital was available to continue development, without interruption. For some time progress was slow. Supplies had to be put in during the winter to run for the rest of the year.

Table No. 3. Total Production, Cobalt Mines, 1904-1916

Year	Nickel		Cobalt		Arsenic		Silver		Total
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Ounces	Value	Value
		\$		\$		\$		\$	\$
1904	14	3,467	16	19,960	72	903	206,875	111,887	136,217
1905	75	10,000	118	100,000	549	2,693	2,451,356	1,360,503	1,473,196
1906	160		321	80,704	1,440	15,858	5,401,766	3,667,551	3,764,113
1907	370	1,174	739	104,426	2,958	40,104	10,023,311	6,155,391	6,301,095
1908	612		1,224	111,118	3,672	40,373	19,437,875	9,133,378	9,284,869
1909	766		1,533	94,965	4,294	61,039	25,897,825	12,461,576	12,617,580
1910	504		1,098	54,699	4,897	70,709	30,645,181	15,478,047	15,603,455
1911	392		852	170,890	3,806	74,609	31,507,791	15,953,847	16,199,346
1912	429	14,220	934	314,381	3,166	80,546	30,243,859	17,408,935	17,818,082
1913	377	13,326	821	420,386	3,663	64,146	29,681,975	16,553,981	17,051,839
1914	90	28,978	351	590,406	2,030	116,624	25,162,841	12,765,461	13,501,469
1915	35	28,353	206	383,261	2,490	148,379	24,746,534	12,135,816	12,695,809
1916	91	30,684	510	413,760	2,164	100,052	23,849,964	12,622,849	13,167,345
	3,916	130,202	8,723	2,858,956	36,201	816,035	259,257,153	135,809,222	139,614,415

The country was heavily wooded and the overburden frequently deep, so that prospecting was difficult and development slow. With the large number of men in the bush, clearing and prospecting, forest fires became a constant menace in the dry summer