NEW YORK ADVICES ON ASBESTOS MARKET.

Since our last letter regarding the Asbestos situation, prices have advanced for all grades, some grades only slightly and others to a greater extent. This is only natural when one stops to consider the enormous demand which is evidenced by the fact that there are to-day 7,750,000 passenger cars and trucks on the roads, and the fact that automobile manufacturers expect a production of 2,000,000 cars and trucks for this year.

In addition to this, the enormous building construction going on all over the world is almost double what it has ever been before at any time. This is due to the fact that practically all building construction both here and in Europe was stopped during the war. Besides the extraordinary building construction that is going on in this country, England, France and Italy, there is additional reparation and construction work going on in the devastated districts of France, Italy and Belgium.

The steamship trade is also consuming large quantities. Not alone for the new tonnage which is being produced, but also owing to renewals of practically all the steamers that were operated during the war. Owing to the scarcity of steamer space from 1914 until the Armistice was signed nearly all steamers were kept in service continuously and renewals and repairs were put off until recently.

Considering that the output at the Mines has decreased instead of increased it is readily understand that the Asbestos market is going to hold firm with the probability of prices still going higher for a considerable period.

TORONTO COAL PRICES.

Toronto, August, 18.—Prevailing coal quotations are as follows :

Mine run $14 25 to $14.50 f.o.b. Toronto; smokeless coal $14.50 to $15.00; hard coal $8.00 to $11.50 gross tons at mines. American funds. The demand is not stiff but practically no coal is coming in, the shipments being diverted to the Great Lakes for consumption in the North West.

METAL QUOTATIONS.

Fair prices for Ingot Metals in Montreal August 19th 1920. (For shipment from stock, and in less than car-load lots.)

	Cents per lb.
Copper, electro	24¼
Copper castings	23¾
Tin	55½
Lead	10
Zinc	10½
Aluminum	35
Antimony	9

A NEW USE FOR MAGNESITE.

It is reported by the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York that Mr. H. F. Wierum has been experimenting with ground magnesite as a substitute for lime in making egg shells. He finds that hens using magnesite produce a very superior grade of shell, having superior insulating and wearing facilities. Those who found magnesite useful in the shell industry during the war will be pleased to find that it is also useful in the original shell industry. It is another example of how the old established industries have been helped by the hunt for substitutes.

Our Northern Ontario Letter

THE SILVER MINES.

In the silver mining fields of Nothern Ontario, as a result of success achieved in the South Lorrain, Gowganda and Elk Lake districts, the output of the metal may be maintained for a much longer period than had the industry depended entirely upon the Cobalt mines alone.

At Cobalt, too, the new developments on such properties as the Bailey Silver Mines, the Colonial, Prince Davis and Lumsden offers promise of adding to the number of producing mines.

According to official advice to the "Mining Journal" an ore shoot just encountered at the 350-ft. level of the Bailey Silver Mines shows a width of from four to five inches and contains high silver value, some of the ore containing from 2,000 to 4,000 ounces to the ton. The high grade is being bagged, while the lower grade material is being made available for treatment in the company's own mill. The work of transporting medium-grade ore to the mill will commence just as soon as the short railway siding is completed. This should not be later than about the middle of September.

Perhaps the most interesting official advice received during the week is that dealing with the success being met with on the Keeley Silver Mines, in South Lorrain. Although this property remained idle for a number of years, and was not re-opened until a few months ago, it is understood the ore in sight is estimated to contain close to $1,000,000 in silver. Not only has the ore encountered been found to contain high values, but the ore-shoots are comparatively wide. One main ore-shoot is stated to be from four to five feet in width, and contains average silver values ranging from 30 to 100 ounces to the ton. In the meantime, the work of constructing a new mill is making satisfactory progres and the company experts to be treating ore at the rate of 80 tons daily some time during the closing quarter of the current year.

During the month of July the Nipissing mine produced silver at the rate of close to $6,000 every twenty-four hours. In his regular monthly report to the president and directors, Hugh Park, manager, states that during the period, the Nipissing produced $182. 111, and shipped residue and bullion from Nipissing and custom ores of an estimated net value of $129,315. Mr. Park states there were no unusual underground developments, but that the usual success was achieved in opening up new narrow veins.

A new order issued by Hon. Beniah Bowman, Minister of Lands and Forests, grants general working permission on all mining claims staked on the Gillies Limit. The Limit was thrown open on July 20th, with the understanding that the holders of claims would have to make application for and receive permission to do assessment work before undertaking any development work, but the new order directs that on and after July 20th it will not be necessary to make such application. Incidentally this will tend to shorten the time within which the first instalment of work falls due.

Up to the present only two mining disputes have resulted from staking of claims which occurred in July on the Gillies Limit. This is in sharp contrast to 1912 at the time a small part of the territory was