

tonnage of ore crushed was 1,819,230 tons, giving an average of 27.77 shillings per ton. Up to the end of 1908, Rhodesia's total output of gold amounted to 3,208,789 ounces, valued at £11,831,526.

This, in bald figures, is the history of Rhodesia's remarkable progress. Its growth has not been unmarked by difficulties, reverses and discouragements. At present, however, Rhodesian gold mining appears to be established beyond a peradventure.

During the year 1908 the producers contributing to the output numbered 446, as compared with 275 in 1907. Of this total, 28 companies produced more than half the gold reported. One hundred and one tributors and 293 small workers were responsible for the rest. Upon the last class devolved almost all the prospecting done during the year.

NEW QUEBEC MINING BILL.

A new mining bill was introduced into the Quebec Legislature on Saturday, May 8th. It consisted mainly of amendments to the present Mining Act. The chief amendments are easily outlined. One was designed to extend the time within which an exploitation permit must be taken out. Another increases the penalty for pulling up stakes placed around concessions applied for. This penalty is increased from \$10 to \$25, with an alternative of one month's imprisonment. The third provision restricts the powers of the Governor-in-Council in connection with mining concessions. It withdraws his prerogative to fix and increase the price of mining concessions.

The bill is healthy in tone. It met the approval of both the Government supporters and the Opposition.

COBALT IN 1908.

Abstract of Report of Arthur A. Cole, Mining Engineer for Cobalt District, for Calendar Year 1908.

The approximate production of the world, the United States and Cobalt for the year 1908 is as follows:—

World's production of silver for 1908, 194,000,000 ozs.

United States production of silver for 1908, 51,798,053 ozs.

Cobalt's production of silver for 1908, 18,000,000 ozs.

It will thus be seen that Cobalt supplied over 9 per cent. of the world's production during 1908.

The following tabulation illustrates the advance that Canada has made as a silver producing country, the advance in great part being due to the Cobalt production.

Country.	1906	1907	1908
Mexico	68,500,000 ozs.	65,600,000 ozs.	69,000,000 ozs.
United States	56,517,900 ozs.	58,850,615 ozs.	51,798,053 ozs.
Australasia	13,519,410 ozs.	17,516,433 ozs. ozs.
Germany	11,649,160 ozs.	12,439,896 ozs. ozs.
Canada	8,568,685 ozs.	12,750,004 ozs.	21,000,000 ozs.
World's prod'n	184,552,343 ozs.	193,542,381 ozs.	194,000,000 ozs.

The above figures for 1906 and 1907 were obtained from the Mineral Industry, while those for 1908 are estimated.

Canada thus takes fifth place in 1906, fourth place in 1907, and probably third place in 1908.

The following values are given by the Ontario Bureau of Mines for the shipments from the Cobalt district for 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907. The value for 1908 is estimated.

1904	\$ 136,217 00
1905	1,485,570 00
1906	3,573,908 00
1907	6,155,391 00
1908 (estimated)	9,000,000 00
Total	\$20,351,086 00

The outputs for 1907 and 1908 were distributed for treatment as follows:—

Country	1907		1908	
	Tons	%	Tons	%
Canada	2,585.05	17.40	7,401.14	29.18
Great Britain	167.13	1.13	222.08	88
Germany	229.46	1.18
United States	12,093.95	81.47	17,439.42	68.76
Total	14,851.34	100.00	23,362.10	100.00

Almost all the ore treated in Canada was high grade, so that while the tonnage was less than one-third of the total, the value was greater than that of all the ore shipped out of the country.

Silver.

A disappointing feature of the year from the silver-mining standpoint has been the continued depression in the price of silver. Towards the close of 1907 the price of silver fell rapidly and 1908 was marked by an almost continued decline. The maximum price was that of 7th of January, 58 3/8 cents, the minimum being 47 5/8 cents, on the 2nd December. The average price for the year was 52.864, or nearly 12 1/2 cents below the average price for 1907.

The average price by months in cents per fine ounce, at New York, was as follows:—

January	55.678	July	53.115
February	56.000	August	51.683
March	55.365	September	51.720
April	54.565	October	51.431
May	52.795	November	49.647
June	53.663	December	48.769

The causes for the low price of silver were varied. The almost universal business depression caused a large falling off in the demand for silver in the arts. Another powerful factor was the unrest in the market of