

Statement of the Mineral Production for the Province of Quebec

Interesting Figures in Report Issued by Theo. C. Dennis, Superintendent of Mines for Quebec

The abnormal industrial and economic conditions which are now affecting the whole world have been felt in the mining industry of the province of Quebec. Our production of metalliferous ores has reached a record figure; large increases in non metallic products such as magnesite, asbestos, have been recorded; but on the other hand there has been a very heavy falling off in the value of the production of structural materials.

The total figure of the mineral production of the Province of Quebec in 1915 was \$10,796,348 a decrease of \$936,347 as compared with 1914. Of this \$5,180,932 represent, the value of the products of the mines, an increase of 32% over the previous year, and \$5,615,416 represent the value of the structural materials, a decrease of 28%.

The following table gives the annual production of the Province of Quebec for the last twelve years:

Year.	Mineral production	Value of
1904	\$ 3,423,568
1905	3,750,300
1906	5,019,932
1907	5,391,368
1908	5,458,998
1909	5,552,062
1910	7,223,281
1911	8,679,786
1912	11,187,110
1913	13,119,811
1914	11,732,783
1915	10,796,348

Table of Mineral Production of the Province of Quebec in 1915.

Substance.	Quantity.	Produce 1915—		Value in 1914.
		Value	1914.	
Asbestos, tons	114,115	\$ 3,544,302	\$ 2,895,935	
Asbestic, tons	25,700	21,819	4,904	
Chromite, tons	14,076	221,287	1,210	
Copper and Sulphur ore, tons	142,769	1,020,605	801,129	
Feldspar, tons	32	640	2,156	
Glass Sand and Phonolith, tons .....	.....	8,000	2,114	
Gold, oz.	45,553	27,548	21,064	
Graphite, lbs.	135,200	2,461	18,886	
Kaolin, tons	1,300	13,000	9,000	
Magnesite, tons	16,285	137,304	2,240	
Mica, lbs.	619,350	55,897	67,278	
Mineral Waters, gallons	305,275	27,844	23,569	
Mineral Paint, (ochre), tons	6,264	42,285	36,600	
Phosphate, tons	200	2,400	5,057	
Quartz, tons .....	.....	.....	525	
Silver, tons	93,602	19,540	31,809	
Zinc and Lead ores, tons	634	36,000	10,017	
Structural Materials				
Brick, M.	68,031	463,406	1,094,531	
Cement, barrels	2,484,362	2,805,374	3,325,055	
Granite .....	.....	230,080	582,235	
Lime .....	.....	217,601	391,622	
Limestone and Marble .....	.....	1,477,362	1,745,855	
Sand .....	.....	192,720	446,532	
Sandstone	397	2,039	5,105	
Slate, Sq. ....	.....	195,080	208,355	
Tile, drain and sewer pipe, pottery, etc. ....	.....	.....	.....
		\$10,796,348	\$11,732,783	

NOTE.—For purposes of comparison we give in the last column of the table the figures for 1914.

Asbestos.

It is gratifying to note that we record this year an appreciable increase of shipments of asbestos as compared with 1914. The value of the asbestos shipped from the mines in 1915 reached \$3,544,302, or an increase of \$648,367 over 1914. The figures are still below those for 1913, which were \$3,830,504.

After a period of comparative stagnation at the beginning of the year 1915, the asbestos market began to show signs of activity in the early part of the summer. During the second half of the year, the mines were in active operation and the condition of the market was very satisfactory. It is true that the crude, or long fiber asbestos, has been in greater demand than the lower qualities, but nevertheless we notice a marked decrease of stocks on hand which on December 31st, 1914, were valued at \$1,091,909, whereas on December 31st, 1915, this was only \$66,211.

The rock mined amounted to 2,134,073 tons, from which a value of \$3,118,524 of asbestos was recovered, or \$1.46 of asbestos from each ton of rock quarried.

In 1914, this contents per ton of rock was \$1.44, and \$1.45 in 1913.

Of the rock mined a proportion of approximately 20% is barren and is not milled. It goes straight to the refuse piles.

The tables which follow give an analysis of the shipments and stocks of asbestos in 1915 and 1914. The two years are given for purposes of comparison.

Production of Asbestos for 1915.

Designation of Grade.	Tons.	Value.	Average value per ton	Stock on hand Dec. 31st, 1915.	
				Tons.	Value.
Crude No. 1	2,734	\$750,112	\$274.36	590	\$176,523
Crude No. 2	2,631	322,048	122.40	300	41,582
Mill Stock No. 1	12,502	804,193	64.32	290	50,294
Mill Stock No. 2	36,945	981,830	27.58	5,525	157,012
Mill Stock No. 3	59,303	686,119	12.57	15,333	240,800
Totals	114,115	3,544,302	31.06	22,038	666,211

Quantity of rock mined during year 1915:—2,134,073 tons.

Production of Asbestos for 1914.

Designation of Grade.	Tons.	Value.	Average value per ton	Stock on hand Dec. 31st, 1914.	
				Tons.	Value.
Crude No. 1	1,336	\$ 402,417	\$301.96	985	\$ 301,237
Crude No. 2	2,812	370,776	131.85	1,345	187,688
Mill Stock No. 1	10,485	633,289	60.40	2,737	166,761
Mill Stock No. 2	32,847	818,765	24.93	9,757	231,874
Mill Stock No. 3	59,921	670,688	11.18	16,986	204,429
Totals	107,401	\$2,895,935	\$ 26.96	31,792	\$1,091,989
Asbestic	13,251	4,904			
Totals	120,653	\$2,900,839			

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOX-SKIN OUTPUT.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

It is estimated that 1,600 fox-skins will be exported from the Island this year, almost all to the American market, and Chester McLure, manager of the Fur Sales Board, says that the Board will handle 75 per cent. of them.

Alreday the Board has forwarded 400 skins to the United States, and on January 15th, Mr. McLure will leave for there with 800 skins, in time for the opening of the January sales. These are held between the 20th and 30th in New York, Chicago and St. Louis. Returns for part of the first shipment of 200 skins have come to hand. The highest price received was \$400 and this was paid for a skin known as "under primed", the animal having died before it was in proper condition for pelting.

The 1,600 pelts which the Island is contributing to the market this season represent all grades. There will be very few of the highest quality. The best animals will be retained, in order to keep up the standard of breeding, and the ranchers for the most part are "weeding out" their stock this year. Next season the quality of the "take-off" should be much better.

The Sales Board was organized a year ago for the purpose of collecting skins all over the Island, and marketing them in large numbers co-operatively, the owners to receive whatever prices they realize in the market less a commission to the Board for handling them. Co-operative marketing among other advantages enables matching to be carried out and better prices thereby realized. Mr. McLure says that he has received assurances of support from ranchers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the majority of those in Prince Edward Island.

Last year the Board marketed 250 skins. Twelve of these averaged \$912.50 per pelt. The shipment of 400 sent this season is expected to realize about \$100,000. Even after the 1,600 pelts are sent away, there will still remain about 3,000 pairs of foxes in the Island ranches.

There are at present two fur buyers on the Island purchasing fox pelts outright for American dealers. A number of skins will be sold in England this year, but mainly the cheaper grades, as the war time economy precludes the extensive use of luxuries, such as high-priced silver fox pelts, in the Old Country.

MONTREAL'S FIRE RECORD.

According to figures furnished at fire headquarters the year that has just ended, has not been a particularly hard one on the city fire fighters. They responded to 2,607 alarms, almost one thousand less than during 1915, when the figures were 3,574. There were 1,381 fires, 765 calls for outbreaks that were extinguished before the arrival of the firemen, and 464 false alarms, of which 52 were sent in over the telephone and 127 by the automatic alarm system.

PRICES THAT LEAD TO FOOD CONTROL IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 3).

Cheese	45	48	46
Eggs (fresh)	86	78	82
Margarine	20	17	18
Potatoes	55	49	42

All above articles (weighted p. c. inc.)

That ocean risks have a direct bearing on the high cost of living in England is apparent by a glance at the above table. As against an increase of 60 per cent. in the United Kingdom for British beef ribs, frozen ribs show an increase of 80 per cent. Ocean risks and difficulties in transportation are responsible for that. But it is hard to understand why fish shows an increase of 103 per cent. in towns having a population of more than 50,000 and only 70 per cent. in small towns and villages. Just such range in price as that has brought about Government control of food.

In the Central Empires beef has gone up 198 per cent. In Vienna the price has increased 344 per cent.!

Not only is food higher, but clothing is more expensive. Children's stockings that were 1s. 5½d. before the war, are 2s. 11½d. now. Derby tweeds for men's clothing that before the war cost 3s. and 4s., now bring as high as 5s. and 6s. Women's costume cloth that was 2s. 6d. before the war was about 4s. 9d. on September 1st last.