

At the moment, the most promising field for investment in Ontario undoubtedly occurs in connection with gold mining. The north-western part of the Province has been the scene of much activity, and several well equipped, though small, mining and milling plants have been established chiefly on the picturesque shores of the Lake of the Woods, and development is being very actively pushed throughout a wide belt of country, including Rainy Lake, Seine River, Manitow Lakes and a plexus of other smaller rivers and lakes. The areas so far opened are free-milling. In Hastings County a large plant has been put into operation to treat the refractory mispickel ores of the Deloro Mine by the bromo-cyanide process. Other gold properties are being opened up in this district, at Jackfish and other points on the north shore of Lake Superior, and at Lake Wahnapiatae and elsewhere in the eastern section of the Province. The nickeliferous pyrrhotites and copper-bearing deposits at Sudbury have been worked on much the same scale as in former years. The mattes are now shipped exclusively to the United States to be refined, and statistics for the year 1896 show the production of that country, wholly from Ontario ores and matte, to have been 3,697,039 pounds, as compared with 2,678,661 pounds in 1895, an increase of 1,018,378 pounds. The workings in the Copper Cliff Mine have reached the tenth level and a depth of about 800 feet in the shaft. The establishment of an iron furnace at Hamilton has brought about the re-opening of several iron mines at Hastings County, and the production of about 5,000 tons of magnetite and 4,000 tons of hematite. About 1,000 tons of bog ores were also used from the Counties of Norfolk and Kent. The other mineral products were petroleum, salt, natural gas, mica, gypsum and graphite. Twenty-nine mining companies were incorporated under the Ontario Joint Stock Companies Act, as against twenty-four such companies during the previous four years.

Coming finally to our western-most Province, British Columbia, which certainly possesses a wealth and variety of ores greater than any other portion of the Dominion, we find the mineral production to have advanced from \$5,655,302 in 1895 to \$7,146,425 in 1896, a very gratifying increase of \$1,491,123. A very large share of attention was directed to the unique auriferous pyrrhotites of the Trail Mining District of West Kootenay, where the output increased to \$1,243,360, as compared with \$702,457 in 1895. The leading producers were the War Eagle and Le Roi companies, which have paid to date \$187,000 and \$400,000 respectively in dividends. Of the different metals produced in the Province, gold (from quartz) shows an increase of \$458,689; silver adds \$1,123,460; lead, \$189,129; and copper, \$143,234. The increase from placer mining was not quite up to expectations, being \$101,600, of which more than half, or \$54,550, was from the Keithly Creek Division and the product of the Cariboo Hydraulic Mine. A feature worthy of remark is the remarkable increase during the past five years in lode mining, the production from this source having advanced from \$29,607 in 1891 to the magnificent total of \$4,257,179, of which nearly one-half was the output of the Slocan Silver Lead Division alone. Of the dividend-paying mines other than those already mentioned, the following figures will be of interest :

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