

On the other hand, however, most of the pyrites derived from the coal beds is marcasite, which decomposes readily, sometimes ignites through spontaneous combustion, or oxidizes to sulphuric acid, and is, therefore, a dangerous or expensive substance to leave in storage dumps.

The pyrites industry throughout 1917 showed an unsettled condition due largely to uncertainty as to whether importation of Spanish pyrites would be continued. At times the impression would be prevalent that further imports of pyrites would be stopped and there would follow a feverish interest in finding possible sources of domestic ore. Before much progress had been made in this search, however, a contrary rumor would be circulated and activities would decrease or actually stop. These conditions alternated in their hold on the minds of those who might have been willing to undertake the rather expensive and time-consuming operation of developing mines capable of supplying the sulphuric-acid industry with pyrites. Because of this uncertainty, some of the former users of imported pyrites decided to replace it with sulphur and thus reduce the quantity of imported ore required. This substitution required little change in technology in many of the plants and it was adopted by many manufacturers. By the last part of the year, however, it became evident that more domestic pyrites was necessary, and consequently several mines were opened. It takes time, however, to bring a pyrites mine to the producing stage, so that this activity had but little effect on the output of pyrites in 1917, but it will probably have a considerable effect on the output in 1918.

The shortage of pyrites was made evident by the high price that was paid for it and the difficulty of obtaining considerable quantities even at prices three times those paid in 1916. The quotations given for pyrites in the technical press in 1917 range all the way from 20 to 35 cents a unit for the sulphur content. On the assumption that the pyrites carried 45 per cent. sulphur, the latter price would bring a return of \$15.75 a ton for the pyrites. The usual pre-war price of pyrites was less than \$4 a ton, and, according to the statistics published by the U.S. Geological Survey, the average price per ton, even in 1916, was \$4.64.

The total value of the pyrites imported into the United States in 1917, was \$5,981,457, or an average value of \$6.18 a ton; in 1916 the average value was \$5.41 a ton. In this connection, it should be noted that in 1916 the price paid for Canadian ore was considerably lower than that paid for the Spanish ore. The value of Canadian pyrites was stated to be only about

two-thirds that of the Spanish ore. Some of this difference in price is warranted by the generally higher sulphur content of the Spanish ore, but some of the difference is caused by the unwillingness of the pyrites users to modify their old practice and to accept a substitute if Spanish ore is obtainable even at extra cost.

ANTHRACITE ALLOTMENTS FOR WESTERN CANADA.

In a memorandum issued on July 17 by Charles W. Peterson, deputy fuel controller for Canada, it is announced that Winnipeg is to have 65 per cent. of its normal supply of anthracite coal next winter. The remainder of the Province of Manitoba other than the City of Winnipeg and that portion of the Province of Saskatchewan east of approximately the 104th meridian, is to have 50 per cent of last year's consumption. To the cities of Moose Jaw, Regina and Saskatoon, 50 per cent. of last year's consumption is allotted.

TORONTO MARKETS.

- Cobalt oxide, black, \$1.50 per lb.
- Cobalt oxide, grey, \$1.65 per lb.
- Cobalt metal, \$2.50 per lb.
- Nickel metal, 45 to 50 cents per lb.
- White arsenic, 12 cents per lb.

July 31, 1918—(Quotations from Canada Metal Co., Toronto).

- Spelter, 11 cents per lb.
- Lead, 10¼ cents to 10½ cents per lb.
- Antimony, 18 cents per lb.
- Copper, casting, 30 cents per lb.
- Electrolytic, 29½ cents per lb.
- Ingot brass, yellow, 21 cents; red, 26 cents per lb.

July 31, 1918—(Quotations from Elias Rogers Co., Toronto).

- Coal, anthracite, \$10.50 per ton.
- Coal, bituminous, nominal, \$9.50 per ton.

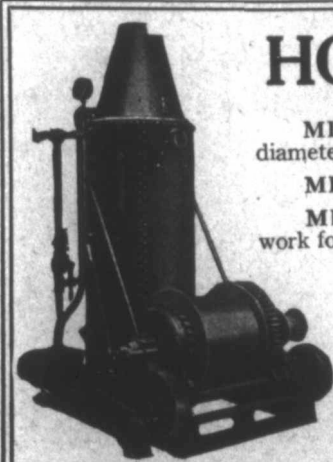
SILVER PRICES.

	New York cents.	London pence.
July—		
29	99%	48½

STANDARD MINING EXCHANGE.

As of close, July 29, 1918.

	Silver.	
	Sellers.	Buyers.
Adanac Silver Mines, Ltd.	8	7½
Ridley	4	3
Beaver Consolidated	25	23



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