CANADA CONTROLS WORLD'S NICKEL

War and Mineral Production — Dominion is Heavy Producer

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Germany as an important industrial nation, has been built largely upon the development of its mineral wealth. Upon that foundation, its iron and steel industries have been raised. It has copper, lead, zinc and other minerals in fair quantity and great wealth in its salt mines. It has practically a monopoly of potash, and supplies the world with that product. In its mineral resources Canada also has a substantial foundation on which to secure a large share of Germany's lost trade. Last year, the value of Canada's mineral production was $140,000,000.

This industry is one of great importance, providing material for industries of peace as well as for the construction of war implements. Dreadnaught, aeroplane and locomotive, autotruck, gun-carriage, and ambulance wagon. Bayonet, sword and lance, cannon, maxim and rifle, bullet, shot and shell, watch, compass and heliograph, are all evolutionary products of mineral ores taken by the peaceful miner from Mother Earth.

In war times, prices of the important minerals fluctuate considerably, owing to lack of supplies or loss of markets, difficulty of shipment, etc. But as a result of the conditions caused by the war, an opportunity is presented to Canada's mineral producers, and to the manufacturers who convert these products into articles of commerce.

Great Britain imported during the first seven months of this year coal, coke, manufactured fuel, iron ore, scrap iron and steel, and other metallic ores, all as raw material to the extent of $48,000,000, and as articles wholly or mainly manufactured, iron and steel and manufactures thereof, other metals and manufactures thereof, cutlery, hardware, implements, instruments, electrical goods, and machinery of all classes valued at $188,000,000. Other markets are available for the alert Canadian manufacturer. Their permanence depends on the ability to meet future competition on the resumption, by the European nations, of mercantile activity.

Gold, Basis of Credit.

The first mineral product of importance, gold, is the basis of the world's credit. The British Empire's largest producer is the Transvaal, its output annually amounting to over $190,000,000. German financiers are one of the principal factors in the control of the industry in South Africa. Canada ranks as the fourth largest producer of gold in the British Empire, the annual output being about $16,000,000. Silver is a product in which Canada's resources lead the Empire, the Dominion mining about $18,000,000 annually. In the production of gold the use of mercury for extraction of the metal from the ores is a notable factor, as also is the cyanide process.

The supply of mercury or quicksilver is limited. As fulminate, a product from mercury, is necessary for the manufacture of explosive caps for the belligerent nations in addition to many other uses of mercury in medicine and the arts, the Cobalt mills and those of other countries will be affected by advancing prices. Germany is the largest producer of cyanide, though one producer in Great Britain is stated to be able to supply normal demands at this time.

Coal was Nova Scotia's gift to the Motherland and a reminder to the world of Canada's undeveloped supply of this material. This maritime province's patriotic provision of fuel for His Majesty's battleships indicated the importance of coal in fighting operations as well as for its heating and power—generating offices, performed in times of peace. Coal tar and aniline are notable products from coal, and Germany has claimed a large share of the world's trade in these products.

Trade Barometer is Affected.

Iron, the barometer of trade and commerce, is particularly affected by wars. As destruction advances, so construction recedes for the time being. Such early results as those indicated by the partial closing of various large works, are already noted. No doubt these and all other large North American firms are examining the business held by Germany and are preparing to capture some of it.

Iron ore prices are stated to be normal, but owing to the cutting off of supplies of constituent elements, such as manganese ores, ferro manganese, and other materials necessary in the manufacture of steel, this commodity has risen in price. Some Canadian manufacturers had surplus stocks of ferro manganese and sold it in the United States at a good profit. Disinfectant and chemical manufacturers may also have to ask Canadian producers to supply the demand for manganese.

Canada Controls Nickel Supply.

Interest was shown last year in a statement in *The Monetary Times' Annual* relative to Canada's valuable nickel resources. This country produces two-thirds of the world's supply. The article said:—"The most important use of nickel is in the manufacture of nickel steel, largely required for the manufacture of guns. The Canadian export, therefore, would be of great importance in case of war, and other European countries might be seriously hampered should the output be curtailed or stopped. The only other extensive deposits from which large outputs are obtained are in New Caledonia, France. The mines there, which produce practically the remaining third of the world's supply, are controlled by France, and the Krupp Company is understood to have obtained some control in the interests of Germany."

Another important industry in which the salts of nickel are used is the plating industry.

Copper at the beginning of the year showed prospects of an increased production. Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria and the United States are the largest consumers of this material, the electrical industry including tramways probably absorbing the largest quantity, though the shipbuilding and engineering trades utilize large amounts. Under present conditions, and with producers limiting output to about 50 per cent., early promises are not likely to be fulfilled. Munitions of war will consume much copper. Canada has an increasing output of copper.

Canadian copper producers and manufacturers of electrical machinery fittings, wire, cable, etc., should benefit.

Painters Want Home Product.

The production of lead in the Dominion is heavy, giving a fair supply of bullet making material. The need of red and white lead, litharge and other products may make for an increased manufacture of these materials used by the manufacturers of paints and colors who will also probably have to appeal to Canadian producers for various other minerals which are used in their processes of manufacture, now that Germany and Britain are unable to market quickly their products of this nature. Zinc is another product of Canada which should show an increased output.

The production of arsenic in America is often, though not invariably, a by-product of other metal smelters. The limiting of the exports from Europe may benefit Canadian producers.

Tin, another mineral affected by the war, is not produced commercially in Canada, though indications have been discovered at different points in the Dominion. The Straits Settlements are the chief producers of this mineral. In Cornwall, England, tin has been mined continuously since the days of the Phoenicians, who took back with them some tin in blocks, which were used in the construction of King Solomon's Temple. This mineral is used not only in making tin plate for pots and pans, but also is an important component part of printers' type, and utilized in making various chemicals, one of which is used in weighting silks. When war shut off the United States supply, the price per pound, which is normally around 35 cents, jumped to about 65 cents. This will add to the cost of the fruit canning industry and affect the plumbing, sheet and metal trade. Antimony, another mineral which Canada produces, was affected by war alarms, and the price rose from four to twenty cents per pound.

Glass and Potash.

Belgium has been a large exporter of glass, and now Canadian supplies will be stopped from this source, giving an impetus to manufacturers at home.

Potash is practically a monopoly of the German nation in the same way as nickel is a monopoly of Canada. There are inexhaustible supplies which are operated by a syndicate so that fertilizer and chemical manufacturers will have some difficulty in getting a supply of raw material. From potash salts are obtained such articles as bichromate of potash, bromides, etc.

Another Canadian industry affected is that of the manufacture of paper which uses large quantities of the mineral