

## Textile Mills

*throughout Canada are working overtime on military and regular business*

Four mills are now under construction. Several plants have resumed operations during the past few months. A number of concerns have recently doubled the capacity of their plants. Practically all the mills are installing new equipment as quickly as it can be secured.

*There is only one publication*

## CANADIAN TEXTILE JOURNAL

*covering the whole industry*

Published Monthly

FOR FULL PARTICULARS, WRITE

## CANADIAN TEXTILE JOURNAL

600 Read Building, MONTREAL

## Foreign Industry and Commerce in this issue

is a department of condensed information of value to Canadian commercial interests.

This is one of the many regular features of the Journal of Commerce designed for the busy business man.

**Every Item of Interest.**

### MONOPOLIES IN STRAW.

(From the Toronto Globe).

At one time the plaiting of straw for making hats was among the domestic industries of rural Ontario, almost as familiar, in season, as carding wool, spinning, or knitting. No one has invented a straw plaiting machine, but the pressure that makes the Chinaman resort to work affording returns on which Western races would refuse to live has given the Celestial Empire a monopoly. Wheat straw is used almost exclusively. It is cut into lengths between the joints and split into from two to seven pieces, according to the fineness of the braids to be plaited. The finest are less than an eighth of an inch wide. Shantung is the business centre of the industry, but Britain's freedom from customs officers has given her the same monopoly of the bleaching that she holds with regard to the dyeing of sealskins. The bleaching industry is located in Luton, a town about forty miles from London.

When plaiting was carried on in Canada and the United States rye straw cut before ripening was used, and the product was strong and durable. Perhaps the passing of the demand for durable hats has been among the influences tending to transfer the industry to China, and to permit the use of wheat straw, ripened, and consequently weak and brittle. No man, and certainly no woman, wants a durable straw hat. As a rule there is an aversion toward appearing in a hat a season out of fashion. The Chinese product meets the demand. While plaiting would yield only a few cents a day at Chinese prices, the work helps to eke out the meagre returns from other fields of industry. The straw hat season is at hand, and it should remind inventors that the chance to revolutionize the manufacture is still open.

## Difficulties in the Paint Situation Ontario's Mineral Output

**Limited Supplies of Different Ingredients, Combined with High Prices, Are Adverse Factors.**

As we approach the close of the second year of the war the various effects of the struggle now going on in Europe dominate our Canadian industries to a greater extent than ever. Many unusual features arising from abnormal European conditions characterize the paint market in particular, as new supplies of the various raw materials required for the manufacture of paints and varnishes are either almost unobtainable or only at very high prices.

White lead has advanced 75 per cent to 90 per cent since the beginning of the war, as the bulk of supplies obtainable is being used for munition purposes, particularly for bullets which are made of seven parts lead and one part antimony. Canadian manufacturers are entirely dependant on the United States at present, as the munition factories are taking the total output of the only Canadian smelter, which is at Trail, B.C. The English embargo on lead is also curtailing supplies as considerable quantities were formerly imported from the United Kingdom.

Zinc is also required for munitions, and a large percentage of the actual world production has been cut off by the war, especially in the case of mines in Belgium and Northern France, whence we derived a large part of our supplies before the war. There are also large zinc mines in Australia which were formerly under German control, but owing to prevailing labour troubles they are not being operated to any great extent at present. The American market is now controlled by a small number of leading firms who are apportioning the limited quantities of zinc available among their regular customers as they see fit, a certain amount coming to Canadian manufacturers. The result of this general shortage is unheard of prices, a pound of zinc now bringing 28c to 30c, where the price stood at 6c to 7c before the war.

Linseed oil, the third chief factor in paint manufacture, is also very difficult to procure, as shipments from England of the oil made from Calcutta seed have been restricted, and the Argentine linseed is held up by lack of ocean tonnage. Recent reports from the chief American markets are to the effect that some means of transporting the large stocks of linseed in store in Argentina will be obtained shortly, which will tend materially to relieve the present crisis. The United States supply is altogether inadequate, but special efforts are being made to increase the production of flax seed, and thereby relieve the situation.

The colour question is a very serious factor in the paint situation, although this market is by no means in such dire straits as is the textile trade, which was entirely dependent on aniline colours before the war. The normal range of paint colours not being by any means so extensive as that of textile dyes, it has been possible in many cases to replace the German article in the United States. For example manufacturers are able to obtain greens and oranges from earth colours, and also the various colours made from white lead, to a limited extent. Para reds, used for agricultural implements and railways signals constitute the chief difficulty. These colours are made from beta naphthol and paranite aniline, which formerly came from Germany. Distilled beta naphthol is now being manufactured to some extent in the United States, and is bringing eight to ten times the price of the German article, and limited quantities of paranite are similarly being made and are selling at fifteen times the normal price. Prussian blue, in spite of a rise in price from 25c. to \$1.75, is being used extensively to take the place of certain aniline dyes. The siennas and umbers hitherto brought from Italy are held up by the freight situation and labour shortage caused by the war. This extensive lack of raw materials has caused an advance in the price of paint of from 25 to 50 per cent, and in some grades an even still greater increase.

At the opening of the war there was a considerable falling off in the demand for construction work and manufacturing purposes, but a decided improvement has been felt during the last twelve months. The bumper 1915 crops have brought unusual prosperity throughout the country, which is reflected in an excellent demand for paint in all

**Mines Bureau Report Shows Big Increases in Production.**

"The demand for nickel and copper, due to the war, has been insatiable, and the Sudbury mines have shown a capacity for meeting the requirements which could scarcely have been anticipated," is the statement made in the report of the Provincial Bureau of Mines for the first three months of 1916. "The output of nickel and copper in the matte was fifty per cent greater than in the first three months of 1915. If the present rate of production is maintained through the year, 1916 will see about 40,000 tons of nickel and 22,000 tons of copper turned out by the smelters in the Sudbury district, as against 34,000 tons of nickel and 19,600 tons of copper in 1915. The Canadian Copper Company and the Mond Nickel Company are the producers; the Alexo Mine turning out a small quantity of ore, which is sold to the Mond Company."

Cobalt oxide and nickel oxide met with a rather better demand, though the quantities exported are still below those of normal times. Metallic cobalt is coming into use, principally in steel alloys, and there is now a small quantity of nickel refined in Ontario from the silver cobalt ores of the Cobalt camp.

Taking the figures as a whole, there are increases in all products except iron ore.

The total value of the production for the first three months of 1916 was \$14,276,382, as compared with \$9,358,210 for the corresponding period of last year. This large increase was due not only to the greater output but to the higher prices now prevailing for most of the metals.

### Increase in Gold Yield.

The increase in the yield of gold was 31,511 ounces, worth \$658,872. Compared with the rate of production for the whole of last year the advance was less marked, but developments now under way are likely to lead to a substantial increase. Porcupine provided the bulk of the 107,818 ounces production, namely, 99,282 ounces. Hollinger led in output, followed by Dome, Acme, McIntyre-Porcupine, Porcupine Crown, Vipond, Schumacher and Dome Lake in descending order. The mines situated elsewhere making up the remainder of the yield are Tough-Oakes and Croesus. Consolidation of the Hollinger, Acme and Millerton interests, says the report, will no doubt lead to a more extensive development and a greater output from these properties.

A feature of the quarter was an actual increase in the yield of silver as compared with the first three months of 1915, amounting to 67,664 ounces, from 5,230,167 to 5,297,831. In value the increase was proportionately greater, namely, \$462,673. This was due to the remarkable rise in the price of silver, amounting to about 50 per cent over the average figure for 1915. A large part of this increase took place in the latter part of the quarter and afterwards, consequently the benefit of the higher prices was only partially realized during the three months. The natural effect of the advance has been to stimulate both mining and prospecting in Cobalt and to enable low-grade ores in the mines or on the dumps to be worked, which at the former low prices of silver were without value. Nipissing continues to lead in quantity of output. Townsite-City, Seneca, Superior, Kerr Lake, La Rose, Coniagas, Cobalt Lake, McKinley-Darragh-Savage, Beaver, etc., follow in the order named.

The blast furnaces of the Province produced about 70 per cent more pig iron than they did in the first quarter of 1915, and the produce was worth almost 100 per cent more. About 15 per cent of the iron ore charged into the furnaces was taken from deposits in Ontario, the remainder coming from the United States.

agricultural districts. The car companies have had large orders from the Russian, French, Belgian and our own Dominion Governments, for which they have consumed large quantities of paint. Munition works are also using paint extensively in the manufacture of shells, shrapnel and high explosives. The latter, for example, are varnished inside to keep the explosive from coming into direct contact with the metal case.

On the whole the paint market continues to be very active, with every prospect of a good demand at high prices, the chief drawback back in the situation being the impossibility of obtaining essential raw materials.