

**Mineral  
Distribution by  
Provinces.**

Five years ago he would have been a bold prophet who predicted that Ontario could ever overtake British Columbia in the value of its annual mining output. In 1904 the total for the far Western province was practically \$19,000,000, as against \$11,500,000 for Ontario. For 1908 British Columbia now reports \$23,851,000 (though on the basis of 1907 prices the total would have been about \$4,000,000 greater). The Ontario preliminary valuation for 1908 is given as \$25,220,000, (which also would have been materially greater had the preceding year's prices continued). It is to be taken into consideration, however, that something over \$3,500,000 of Ontario's total is accounted for by pig iron manufactured from non-Canadian ore. So that, this item aside, British Columbia would still seem to lead by over \$2,000,000 for the year. In any case, the race is now a close one, and during the current year increased activity is in evidence in both provinces. Various gold properties in British Columbia which were for years rather under a cloud are now bringing greatly enhanced returns under skillful management—while the silver-lead mines of the province, under improved reduction methods, are bound to become increasingly important. During the speculative boom of the nineties, British Columbia mining became associated almost solely with the idea of gold. And the majority of Canadians are probably unaware that the province's output of copper last year (despite low prices) was of considerably greater value than its gold production—the former totalling \$6,240,000, and the latter \$5,930,000, while coal mined was valued at \$5,872,472.

The total mineral production of British Columbia, for all years up to and including 1908, is reported as aggregating almost \$325,000,000 in value.

Ontario, of course, owes its rapid increase in mining values to the Cobalt district. But aside from the silver wealth of this and neighboring regions, there has been steady growth during recent years in various lines both metallic and non-metallic. Silver last year amounting to nearly 20,000,000 ounces brought returns of something over \$9,125,000. Had the average prices of 1907 prevailed the total would have reached about \$12,000,000. With increased output, and somewhat bettered prices, the prospects are for a much larger showing for 1909. Last year's production of nickel reached a value of \$1,866,000, that of copper being \$1,071,000.

Nova Scotia ranks third among the provinces in value of yearly mineral production. In coal, of course, it leads vastly—the output in coal and coke alone during 1908, accounting for some \$18,000,000 of the province's total mineral showing of \$20,000,000 or \$21,000,000.

Quebec as yet has remained "little sister" in the provincial mining circle, but the experience of Ontario in discovering unexpected treasure troves keeps

strong the hope of future finds. Meanwhile, development goes steadily apace in the mining of asbestos. During the last thirty years, that is, since asbestos mining began, the aggregate production has had a value of twenty million dollars, and last year the province had an output of about \$2,500,000 worth—or between 85 per cent. and 90 per cent. of the world's supply. With recent organization, this output is certain to be increased materially.

**Potential  
Mining Wealth.**

Canada fully shares with the United States and Mexico the vast mineral wealth of the Rocky Mountain chain. That a greater development has thus far taken place south of the 49th parallel only goes to prove how great are the possibilities for future returns in British Columbia. But the Dominion has vast ore fields not shared in by either of the other two North American countries—and, as yet, it has only begun to give attention to these. It seems only the other day that Cobalt was "discovered"—and already its brief years of development have put that district in the premier position among the world's silver camps.

Speaking a few months ago upon Canada's potential mineral wealth, Professor W. G. Miller, Provincial Geologist for Ontario, predicted remarkable future development of iron and copper mining in the district which he described "in a rough way as surrounding Hudson's Bay from its Southern end away up to the Arctic circle, where there is evidence of coal existing in plenty." The blue book entitled "Canada's Fertile Northland," published a year or two since by the Department of the Interior, has done much to awaken interest in the possibilities of the great Mackenzie Basin region. Nearer home, the Gow Ganda district has been reported upon by the Ontario Department of Mines as giving abundant indications of a wealth of silver.

As yet, Canada's output of minerals amounts in value only to \$12.50 per head for a population of 7,000,000. When it is recalled that in the United States the mineral output amounts to about \$25 per head on a population of 80,000,000, some idea is obtained of the room there is for legitimate growth in mining activity on the part of this and coming generations of Canadians. However, there are signs that the country is awaking to a realization of its potential wealth. Fifteen years ago, the value of the Dominion's entire mineral production reached scarcely \$20,000,000. A decade ago it had increased to about \$50,000,000. In 1908 the total value, as reported by the Dominion Department of Mines, was \$87,323,849—about \$40,000,000 being for exports. But for the sharp decline in metal values, in connection with general trade depression, the showing would have been very considerably over \$95,000,000.