

The Ophir mine in Galbraith Township, and the Vermilion mine in Denison, show no signs of life ; nor are the Wahnapiatæ mines doing much more than prospecting work.

The curious McGown deposit of gold and copper ores near Parry Sound is also nothing more than a prospect at present.

In the oldest gold mining region of the province, that of Madoc, Marmora, Belmont and other townships, little is being done, though Mr. Ledyard has shown some enterprise in developing his Belmont mine during the year. It would seem as if some of the deposits of arsenical ore in this region could be worked at a profit with the improved machinery and methods introduced since the shutting down of that costly failure the Deloro reduction plant ; but no doubt it will take time before confidence is restored in the region.

In glancing over the results of our mineral industry as a whole, we find that petroleum products give the greatest aggregate returns, far exceeding the results of mining any of the metals. Defective statistics make it impossible to give even a rough idea of the whole produce of our oil wells ; but for a number of years the sales must have amounted to more than \$1,000,000.

Nickel should perhaps come next, that is, if the value of the refined metal is taken, which is perhaps not fair, since the matte is all exported. Then silver, copper and iron.

Our output of gold has been insignificant, in spite of the immense outlay on plant in the Madoc and Rat Portage regions. The production of salt no doubt far exceeds it in value.

Looking toward the future we may fairly expect well established industries, like the production of salt and petroleum, to continue the even tenor of their way for a long time to come unless some change in the tariff makes a marked change in their conditions. Nickel mining may be expected to increase gradually as the world is able to absorb more of that fine metal. Hand in hand with it, our output of copper will, of course, also increase. The immediate future of iron mining does not look very bright ; but there must come a time when our western ore deposits, which are practically limitless, will give rise to an important industry.

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