

MINING IN QUEBEC, 1913.

A STATISTICAL review of mining operations in the Province of Quebec during the year 1913, is contained in the recent report of the mines branch of the Provincial Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries. According to it, the value of the products of the mines and quarries of the province reached a total of \$13,119,811 during the year ending December 31st, 1913. It is the highest annual production recorded to date and exceeds that of 1912 by \$1,932,701, or a proportional increase of 17%.

The Mining Law is quite explicit in respect to sending in reports of production. Article 2163 of the Quebec Mining Law states that "Every owner of mining rights, whether he mines himself or by others, and every person working mines shall, during the first ten days of January in each year, furnish a sworn statement of his operations for the past year, mentioning the quantity of mineral extracted, its value at the mine, the quantity and value of the marketable product, and the number of workmen employed, as well as a list of the names of persons killed in working the mines."

As a rule, returns are made promptly. But a few belated reports usually delay the final compilation of the figures. For this reason a preliminary statement is issued each year so as to place the statistics before the interested public at as early a date as possible. Although not quite complete, the early statistical data are sufficiently near the truth to give a very good idea of the state of the industry. This year's preliminary report, noted in brief in a preceding issue of this journal, appeared in the latter part of February. In 1913, there is a difference of 1.6% between the total of the early statement and the figures as finally compiled. In 1912, they differed by 1½%, and as a rule, the difference is less than 2%.

The table of production shows the greater proportion of the total is made up of the value of the structural materials. They make up 63%. The products of metalliferous mines enter for 7½% only in the total. It is a slight increase as compared with the previous year, 6.09%, and quite an appreciable one as compared with 1911, when the proportion was only 3.17%. This increase is due solely to the further development of old districts, for we have yet no production to record from the northern fields. That these will eventually contribute to the mineral production, there is no doubt. Promising geological and mineralogical conditions exist in the Kienawisik Lake region, whence discoveries of gold have been reported. In this connection, it may be mentioned that, in the Report of Mining Operations in the Province of Quebec for 1912, a report on the northwestern part of the Province of

Quebec, by Dr. Bancroft, was published, as well as some notes on the gold discoveries at Lake Kienawisik.

The following table gives the annual value of the mineral production of the Province of Quebec for the last ten years:

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
1904	\$ 3,023,568	1909	\$ 5,552,062
1905	3,750,300	1910	7,323,281
1906	5,019,932	1911	8,679,786
1907	5,391,368	1912	11,187,110
1908	5,458,998	1913	13,119,811

We note that since 1904 there is an unbroken series of increases of each year over the preceding one. In ten years the mineral production of the province has more than quadrupled. It is especially gratifying to note that the general business depression which prevailed during the greater part of the year 1913 does not seem to have affected the mining industry in the province. Comparing

Table of Mineral Production of the Province of Quebec During 1913.

Substances.	No. of workmen.	Salaries.	Quantities.	Value.	Value in 1912.
Asbestos, tons	2,909	\$1,686,251	136,609	\$3,830,504	\$3,059,084
Asbestic, tons .....	....	.....	28,473	20,346	23,358
Copper and sulphur ore, tons	292	163,997	87,550	812,899	631,963
Feldspar, tons	6	1,379	74	1,554	2,200
Gold, ozs.	25	8,335	738	14,794	19,924
Graphite, tons	73	45,195	103	9,620	50,680
Iron ore, bog, tons....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Iron ore, titaniferous, tons	36	6,093	4,981	9,824	4,024
Kaolin, China clay	27	15,000	253	4,354	520
Magnesite .....	....	.....	515	3,335	9,645
Mica, lbs.	270	83,533	781,648	117,038	99,463
Mineral water, gals. ..	21	4,587	77,313	31,728	39,854
Ochre, tons	44	19,529	5,987	40,868	32,010
Peat, tons .....	....	.....	.....	.....	2,000
Phosphate, tons	5	205	360	3,506	1,640
Quartz, tons	4	800	900	2,363	418
Silver, ozs.	10	3,687	36,392	21,791	14,591
Zinc and lead ores, tons	59	35,500	335	7,370	.....
Structural Materials :					
Brick, M.	1,843	590,003	159,408	1,297,592	1,284,232
Cement, bbls.	1,278	1,136,117	2,881,480	3,361,292	3,098,350
Flagstone .....	....	.....	.....	.....	600
Granite	645	365,378	.....	496,588	358,749
Marble	209	108,154	.....	120,541	252,041
Lime, bushels	317	163,431	1,922,837	464,424	455,570
Limestone	1,414	747,418	.....	1,704,207	1,363,555
Sand	171	65,966	.....	405,750	170,600
Sandstone	10	370	.....	5,072	.....
Slate, sq.	20	12,660	1,337	6,286	8,939
Tile, drain and sewer pipe, pottery, etc....	237	138,114	.....	326,165	203,100
	9,925	\$5,401,702	.....	\$13,119,811	\$11,187,110

the production of 1913 with that of the previous year, the Province of Quebec shows a higher proportional increase than any of the other provinces. Quebec's increase in 1913 over 1912 amounted to 17%; Ontario 12.5%; Nova Scotia 2%; British Columbia shows a decrease of 5½%.

Building construction to the extent of \$2,000,000 is under way in Moose Jaw, chief among which is the \$1,250,000 Government elevator.