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**J. J. CASSIDY,** Editor and Manager**MR. GIBSON'S REPORT.**

We have received from the Provincial Crown Lands Department a copy of the report of Mr. Thomas W. Gibson, Director of Mines, just issued, for 1901. It is a document of special interest and value as a record of the remarkable progress made in the leading branches of the mining and metal-manufacturing industries during the twelve months, which is far in excess of the advance made in any previous year. The mineral output of the year reached the total value of \$11,831,086, being an increase of 63 per cent. over the production of 1898, which amounted to \$7,235,877. The most noticeable characteristic of the year's work is the phenomenal expansion of the metallic as compared with the non-metallic output. The value of the items comprised under the former heading has increased from \$2,565,286 in 1900 to \$5,016,734 last year, showing an increase of 72 per cent. As compared with the output for 1898, which, however, amounted to \$1,689,002, there is an increase in the metallic production of 191 per cent., while the increase in the total mineral product is 63 per cent. The items to which this remarkable expansion is due are those of nickel, pig iron and copper, which combined furnish 81 per cent. of the total metalliferous yield.

The leading place in the list of mineral industries is accorded to nickel mining, which produced returns exceeding in value those of any other branch of the industry. The output in 1901 was the largest yet recorded, and owing to the more extended manipulations to which the nickel-copper matte of the Sudbury district is now subjected previous to its exportation, the product has a much larger value than ever before. The production for the year amounted to 8,882,000 pounds or 4,441 tons, valued in the matte at \$1,859,970, an increase in quantity of 25 per cent. and in value of 145 per cent., as compared with 1900 when the yield was 3,540 tons valued at \$756,626. Owing to the process of re-treatment of the low grade matte now adopted at the Ontario Smelting Works at Copper Cliff, the average price at which the nickel contents of matte were appraised in 1901 was 20.9 cents per pound, as compared with 10.7 cents per pound in 1900. This is a very appreciable advance in the direction of having as much as possible of the labor requisite to transform the raw material into the finished article of manufacture performed in this country.

A statistical table is given showing the striking and satisfactory progress made in the nickel-copper mining industry

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since 1897, from which it appears that in the course of five years the quantity of ore smelted has increased from 96,098 to 270,380 tons; the value of the nickel produced from \$359,651 to \$1,859,970; the value of the copper output from \$200,067 to \$589,080; the number of men employed from 585 to 2,284, and the aggregate wages paid from \$253,226 to \$1,045,389.

The later returns, already published, covering the first three months of the current year, show that the advance is being maintained, as the nickel yield shows a gain of \$355,498 and copper a gain of \$121,545 over the first quarter of 1901.

Equally encouraging are the figures given in the report respecting the production of iron ore, pig iron and steel. The output of iron ore for 1901 was three times as great as that of 1900, amounting to 278,538 tons valued at \$174,428, as against 90,302 tons of the value of \$111,805 during the previous twelve months. By far the larger portion was the product of the Helen Mine, from which 258,755 tons were shipped during the year. The pig iron product of the blast furnaces of Ontario was 116,370 tons valued at \$1,701,703, an advance in quantity of 53,984 tons and in value of \$765,637 over the yield of 1900. This gain is largely due to the starting up of the Canada Iron Furnace Co's furnaces at Midland, only two plants being in operation previously. The steel product has increased from 2,819 tons worth \$46,380 in 1900 to 14,471 tons valued at \$347,280. The number of working-men employed in the iron and steel industries is 580, who last year drew \$274,554 in wages. Bounties out of the Iron Mining Fund amounting to \$25,000 were paid on the output of pig iron, that being the maximum amount which can be paid in any one year by the Ontario Government. The amount usually awarded is one dollar per ton, but where the number of tons made exceeds the limit of the annual payment, the amount is reduced pro rata, and the rate of bounty last year was accordingly \$0.472 per ton. The rapid growth of this important staple industry, on which the manufacturing prosperity of the Province is so largely dependent, is a cause for congratulation to all who are concerned in our industrial and commercial development. This is a noteworthy evidence of the wisdom of the policy pursued by the Provincial Government in encouraging the growth and expansion of our industries, and a justification of the course steadily pursued by Premier Ross in regard to the opening up of our mineral resources.