

maintaining that reputation, the parasitical promoter has lived at the foolish investor's expense. Before the undesirable element entered, the average capital per company was not thirty thousand dollars. When fame came to Cobalt so did paper riches; the average capital per company in 1906 jumped to more than eight hundred thousand dollars, and in the following year to nine hundred and fifty-nine thousand dollars.

Capitalization is a strikingly bad feature. The matter of shipments is more eloquent and more heart-some testimony to the worth of the camp. Since 1904 and up to the middle of April, 57,067 tons of ore have been shipped from Cobalt over the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railroad. Here are the figures for each year:—

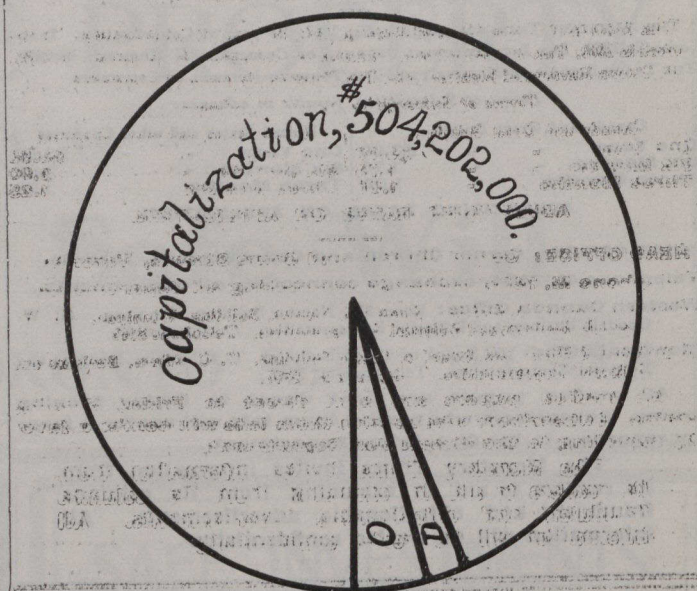
Year.	Tons.
1904	158
1905	2,336
1906	5,836
1907	14,851
1908	25,362
*1909	8,524
	<hr/> 57,067

* January 1st to April 17th.

Those tons are literally and figuratively a weighty argument for the good work of the legitimate Cobalt mine operator. The above figures show that mining proper has been his forte. In 1904, scarcely before Ontario's silver possessions were generally known, only 158 tons were shipped. The following year twenty times that amount left the camp. The increase has been steady and large. The annual output of 1908 compared with that of 1905 shows an increase of 986 per cent., and, compared with that of 1904, a gain of 15,951 per cent. The output for export of the first four months of 1909—January 1st to April 17th—is fifty-six times greater than the output for the whole of the year 1904, nearly four times greater than the shipments for 1905, while the shipments of 1905 and 1906 combined do not equal those of the first four months of the current year. That is a creditable feature. If the average rate of production is maintained during the present year, the output will show a handsome increase over that of 1908.

Having dealt briefly with capital and output, there remains the question of dividends. No absolutely accurate estimate of the amount paid to shareholders of Cobalt companies can be made. Several of the concerns are more or less private corporations and have not published their dividend figures. After a careful study of published figures, dividends actually paid and allowing for private corporations, it is safe, we think, to approximate Cobalt dividends to date at ten million dollars. There are now items of capitalization of five hundred and four millions, dividends paid of ten millions, and output (1908 and four months of 1909, estimated), valued at twenty-three million dollars. Six per cent. dividends on the authorized capitalization of the Cobalt camp would be thirty million dollars; actually ten million dollars have been paid. In other words, on the total authorized capitalization a dividend of 1.9 per cent. has been paid. The value of the silver output of the mines, estimated at twenty-three million dollars, is only 4.5 per cent. of the aggregate capital of the companies. A redeeming feature is in the fact that Cobalt dividends to shareholders have swallowed up almost half the value of the output. It will be said these figures are unfair to the operating mines. They are. The dividends and output to them are creditable. The operating mines get the benefit of this analysis, showing what a lot of "water" and waste have gone into the camp to impede the progress of legitimate mining men. While six hundred and two companies have been incorporated in a little more than four years, that

period has given only about forty shipping mines, some of these being infrequent shippers. The percentage of shipping mines to the companies incorporated is, therefore, only 6.6. The forty mines have, it will be seen, shipped an average of more than one thousand tons each since the camp commenced to live. Then as to dividends. The officially compiled dividend list of the Monetary Times as for December, 1908, showed sixteen dividend payers. Of six hundred and two companies incorporated, only 2.6 per cent. have become dividend payers in more than four years. These figures will show to what extent the ordinary gambling promoter has figured in Cobalt history. Statistics and percentages are sometimes dry reading; as relief, perhaps, the chart below will be of assistance in illustrating the absurd capitalization of Cobalt.



Authorized capital, \$504,202,000; output, 57,067 tons, valued at \$23,000,000; dividends, \$10,000,000.

A careful scrutiny of individual capitalization shows that million dollars companies are as thick as flies in the syrup bowl. No less than one hundred and ninety-five companies were incorporated with a capital of one million dollars, while forty-one were promoted with a two million dollar capitalization and eight aspired to five million dollars. Here are the details:—

Year.	Millions of Dollars.					
	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Five.	Six.
1905	3	..	..	..	..	..
1906	54	10	5	1	4	..
1907	79	12	10	..	3	1
1908	34	10	2	..	..	..
*1909	25	9	..	..	1	..
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195	41	17	1	8	1

Two hundred and sixty-three companies, or 43.6 per cent. of the six hundred and two incorporated, have a capitalization of one million dollars and upwards. It is interesting to note, too, that almost as many Cobalt companies have been organized during the first four months of the present year as were formed during the whole of 1908, while the aggregate capital for the four months' period is only eighteen million dollars less than that of the previous twelve months' period. Already this year thirty-six companies, with a capital of more than one million dollars each, have come into the field.

A glance at head office figures will show where a great deal of the mischief lies. The city of Toronto was named head office for no less than two hundred and ninety-nine, or 49.6 per cent. of the six hundred and two Cobalt companies. Montreal has not sinned largely, so