

# The Mineral Production of Canada During 1915

The total value of Canada's metal and mineral production in 1915 was \$137,109,171, compared with \$128,863,075, in 1914, and \$145,634,812, in 1913, the latter being the highest production recorded. The increase in 1915 over 1914, was thus \$8,246,096, or 6.4 per cent; but the output is still less than that in 1913 by \$8,525,641.

The record of annual mineral production in Canada since 1886, shown in the following table, indicates the rapid growth which the mineral industry has made.

Coal is still the most important mineral product in Canada in point of value, having constituted 23.4 per cent of the total in 1915. The metals came next in importance with nickel contributing 14.9 per cent, copper 13.8 per cent, gold 12.7 per cent, and silver 9.6 per cent. The production of cement made up 5.1 per cent of the total, clay products 2.9 per cent, stone quarries 3.1 per cent, natural gas 2.7 per cent, and asbestos 2.6 per cent.

The production of pig-iron given in the general table includes only that proportion of the output of

mine products were almost three times the total of similar exports in 1914.

The principal increases were in iron and steel goods, the total value of iron and steel exports in 1915 being \$48,268,148, as against \$14,391,746 in 1914. There were also, however, important increases in the export of aluminium, ferro-alloys, brass, and calcium carbide.

A great variety of mineral products chiefly in a manufactured or semi-manufactured condition are annually imported into Canada, these imports having increased with great rapidity during the ten years preceding 1913. During the past two years, however, there has been a falling off of 19.4 per cent. The total value of such imports during the calendar year 1915 was \$146,323,500, as compared with imports valued at \$181,675,667 in 1914; \$259,299,745 in 1913;

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR YEARS 1914 AND 1915.

| COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR YEARS 1914 AND 1915. |                     |              |                          |             |              |                          |             |       |             | Increase (+) or<br>Decrease (—). |  | Increase (+) or<br>Decrease (—). |  |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Product.   | Quantity.           | 1914.        |                          | Quantity.   | 1915.        |                          | Quantity.   | %     | Value.      | %                                |  |                                  |  |
|  |                     | Value<br>(a) | Per<br>cent of<br>total. |             | Value<br>(a) | Per<br>cent of<br>total. |             |       |             |                                  |  |                                  |  |
| Metallic.  |                     |              |                          |             |              |                          |             |       |             |                                  |  |                                  |  |
| Antimony ore   | .....*Tons          | .....        | .....                    | 1,341       | \$ 81,283    | .....                    | .....       | ..... | +\$ 93,171  | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Antimony refined   | .....Lbs.           | .....        | .....                    | 59,440      | 11,888       | .....                    | .....       | ..... | .....       | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Cobalt: metallic and contained oxide, etc.                           | ....."              | .....        | .....                    | 504,212     | 536,268      | 0.09                     | .....       | ..... | .....       | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Cobalt oxide   | ....." 899,027      | .....        | .....                    | (l)         | .....        | .....                    | .....       | ..... | .....       | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Nickel oxide   | ....." 392,512      | \$ 606,593   | 0.53                     | (m)         | .....        | .....                    | .....       | ..... | .....       | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Cobalt material, mixed cobalt and nickel oxides.                     | ....." 79,995       | .....        | .....                    | .....       | .....        | .....                    | .....       | ..... | .....       | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Copper (b)   | ....." 75,735,960   | 10,301,606   | 8.07                     | 100,785,150 | 17,410,635   | 12.69                    | +25,049,190 | 33.07 | + 7,109,029 | 69.11                            |  |                                  |  |
| Gold   | .....Ozs. 773,178   | 15,983,007   | 12.40                    | 918,056     | 18,977,901   | 13.84                    | + 144,878   | 18.74 | + 2,994,894 | 18.74                            |  |                                  |  |
| Iron, pig. from Canadian ore (c)                                     | .....Tons 95,744    | 1,138,912    | 0.88                     | 158,595     | 1,715,874    | 1.25                     | + 62,851    | 65.64 | + 576,962   | 50.66                            |  |                                  |  |
| Iron ore sold for export (k)   | ....." 60,410       | 135,300      | 0.11                     | 89,730      | 181,381      | .....                    | + 29,320    | 48.54 | + 46,081    | 34.06                            |  |                                  |  |
| Lead (d)   | .....Lbs.36,337,765 | 1,627,568    | 1.27                     | 46,316,450  | 2,593,721    | 1.89                     | + 9,978,685 | 27.46 | + 966,153   | 59.36                            |  |                                  |  |
| Molybdenite  | ....." 3,814        | 2,063        | .....                    | 29,210      | 28,450       | .....                    | + 25,396    | ..... | + 26,387    | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Nickel (e)   | ....." 45,517,937   | 13,655,381   | 10.59                    | 68,308,657  | 20,492,597   | 14.95                    | +22,790,720 | 50.07 | + 6,837,218 | 50.07                            |  |                                  |  |
| Platinum   | ....." 23           | 1,063        | .....                    | 23          | 1,063        | .....                    | + 23        | ..... | + 1,063     | .....                            |  |                                  |  |
| Silver (f)   | .....Ozs.28,449,821 | 15,593,631   | 12.10                    | 26,625,960  | 13,228,842   | 9.65                     | — 1,823,861 | 6.41  | — 2,364,789 | 15.17                            |  |                                  |  |
| Zinc ore   | .....Tons 10,893    | 262,563      | 0.20                     | 14,895      | 554,938      | 0.40                     | + 4,002     | 36.74 | + 292,375   | 111.35                           |  |                                  |  |
| Total  | .....               | 59,386,619   | 46.15                    | .....       | 75,814,841   | 55.30                    | .....       | ..... | +16,428,222 | 27.66                            |  |                                  |  |

The total value of the production in 1886 was \$10,221,255, or about \$2.23 per capita. In ten years the value had increased to \$22,474,256, or \$4.38 per capita, more than twice the total in 1886, and nearly twice the production per capita. The next ten years witnessed an increase to \$79,286,697 in 1906, or \$12.81 per capita, about 3½ times the production in 1896. From 1906 to 1913 the total production showed an increase of over 80 per cent with an increase of nearly 50 per cent in production per capita. The decrease of 1914 has been more than half made up by the increase of 1915.

The total value of the metallic production in 1915 was \$75,814,841, as against \$59,386,619 in 1914, an increase of \$16,428,222 or over 27 per cent. With a practically unlimited demand and high prices there was an increased production of all metals with the notable exception of silver in which there was a falling off both in price and production. Notwithstanding these important increases however, it was only in the case of nickel and copper among the more important metals that the production in 1915 exceeded the maximum of previous years.

Metal prices varied within wide limits during the year, but with the exception of silver the average price for most metals was higher than the average for many years.

Canadian blast furnaces credited to Canadian ores. There is an important production of pig-iron from imported ores (shown in the footnotes of the general table, and in the chapter on iron and steel) and the total value thereof in 1915 was exceeded only by the production of coal, gold, silver, copper and nickel. There is also a large production of aluminium from imported ores, for which no value is included in the general table of production.

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

A very large portion of the mineral production of Canada is exported for consumption or refining outside of Canada. On the other hand considerable quantities of mine products, chiefly those which have been refined or subjected to partial treatment, or in the form of manufactured goods ready for consumption, are imported.

The total value of the exports of products of the mine, including direct mine products and manufactures thereof, in 1915 was \$124,157,761, compared with \$75,533,305 in 1914. This value includes for 1915 mine products to the value of \$61,814,582 and manufactures valued at \$62,343,179, as against mine products valued at \$53,781,102, and manufactures valued at \$21,752,203 in 1914.

Practically the whole of the Canadian production of copper, nickel, and silver is exported, also a very

\$238,212,835 in 1912; \$181,773,708 in 1911, and \$147,305,012 in 1910.

Of the total imports in 1915 about \$35,000,000 was made up of the cruder forms of mineral products such as coal, diamonds unset and bort, iron ore, asphaltum, ores of metals, alumina, sand and gravel, etc., as against \$46,000,000 for similar products in 1914.

## ASH AND HICKORY TIMBER LIMITS WANTED.

An important British company are considering the possibility of erecting a factory in Canada for the manufacture of ash boat oars and hickory dimension stock. They would require at least three million (3,000,000) feet of ash per annum before they would be warranted in putting up a factory to manufacture the ash boat oars for which they have a market. They would also require large supplies of hickory. If hickory and ash are not obtainable together they might possibly consider the establishment of factories in two localities. Owners of timber areas containing sufficient supplies of ash or hickory or both might communicate with the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, referring to file No. 15782.

## BRITISH EXPORTS CONTINUE TO DECREASE.

According to the detailed returns of the British Board of Trade the imports into the United Kingdom for the month of April were substantially above the recent average, but the exports were smaller, with the result that the excess of imports over exports was very large, as will be seen from the following table, giving the figures for the last nine months:

|              | Imports.    | Exports.    | Imports Excess. |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| April .. ..  | £84,585,218 | £35,799,466 | £48,785,752     |
| March .. ..  | 81,114,045  | 44,111,131  | 37,002,914      |
| February ..  | 70,947,901  | 37,287,486  | 33,660,415      |
| January ..   | 90,565,311  | 46,860,542  | 43,704,769      |
| December ..  | 75,406,306  | 39,928,460  | 35,477,846      |
| November ..  | 88,922,506  | 42,488,254  | 46,434,252      |
| October ..   | 81,135,376  | 44,715,248  | 36,420,128      |
| September .. | 77,488,368  | 43,477,677  | 34,010,691      |
| August .. .. | 76,116,834  | 47,720,323  | 28,396,511      |

Compared with April, 1916, the exports show an increase of £8,869,014 and the imports a decrease of £1,018,373 in value. Compared with 1915, there is an increase under both heads—£10,946,636 in imports and £3,629,733 in exports. The rise in prices, however, must be allowed for in forming conclusions from these figures.

## METAL PRICES.

|                             | 1910.          | 1911.  | 1912.  | 1913.  | 1914.  | 1915.  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                             | Cts.           | Cts.   | Cts.   | Cts.   | Cts.   | Cts.   |
| Antimony (ordinaries) .. .. | Per lb. 7.386  | 7.540  | 7.760  | 7.520  | 8.763  | 30.280 |
| Copper, New York .. ..      | " 12.738       | 12.376 | 16.341 | 15.269 | 13.602 | 17.275 |
| Lead, New York .. ..        | " 4.446        | 4.420  | 4.471  | 4.370  | 3.862  | 4.673  |
| Lead, London .. ..          | " 2.807        | 3.035  | 3.895  | 4.072  | 4.146  | 4.979  |
| Lead, Montreal* .. ..       | " 3.246        | 3.480  | 4.467  | 4.659  | 4.479  | 5.690  |
| Nickel, New York .. ..      | " 40.000       | 40.000 | 40.000 | 40.000 | 40.000 | 45.000 |
| Silver, New York .. ..      | Per oz. 53.486 | 53.304 | 60.835 | 59.791 | 54.811 | 49.684 |
| Spelter, New York .. ..     | Per lb. 5.520  | 5.758  | 6.943  | 5.648  | 5.213  | 13.230 |
| Tin, New York .. ..         | " 34.123       | 42.281 | 46.096 | 44.252 | 34.301 | 38.500 |

\*Quotations furnished by Messrs. Thomas Robertson & Company, Montreal, Que.

The total value of the non-metalliferous production in 1915 was \$61,294,330 as against \$69,476,456 in 1914, a decrease of \$8,182,126 or 11.78 per cent.

The decrease was most pronounced in the case of materials of construction such as cement, clay products, lime, stone quarry products, etc. The total value of the production of structural materials in 1915 was \$17,920,759, as against \$26,009,227 in 1914, a decrease of \$8,088,468, or 31.1 per cent. Amongst the other products showing a falling off in production were coal, corundum feldspar, grindstones, gypsum, mica, and petroleum, whilst the principal products showing an increase were arsenious oxide, asbestos, chromite, graphite, magnesite, pyrites, quartz, and salt.

large proportion of the production of gold, asbestos, and mica. There are, as well, considerable exports of coal. These products alone contribute about 93 per cent of the value of the mine products exported. Manufactured products exported consist chiefly of iron and steel goods, agricultural implements, aluminium, calcium carbide, acetate of lime, fertilizers, and coke.

The United States is the chief destination of Canada's mine exports, about 72 per cent have been exported to that country during the fiscal year 1914-1915, and about 25 per cent to the United Kingdom.

The principal increases in exports of mine products in 1915 were in coal, copper, gold, lead, nickel, antimony, and pyrites. The exports of manufactured