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CONTENTS

Editorials—	Page.
The Cobalt Silver Area	287
Ontario's Nickel-Copper Production	288
Pre-Cambrian Ore Deposits	288
Public Printing	289
Correspondence	289
Ontario's Metal Production	290
Silver Deposits of the Cobalt District	291
The Price of Silver	298
The Place and Uses of Silver. By Thomas W. Gibson..	299
Treatment of Cobalt Silver Ores	300
Recent Developments in the Cobalt District	302
Concentration of Cobalt Silver Ores by Flotation. By A. A. Cole	301
Personal and General	306
Special Correspondence	307
Markets	310

THE COBALT SILVER AREA

During the past few years the Cobalt district has been producing large quantities of silver, but exploration has not been carried on as vigorously as it might have been. During the past few months, however, there has been a revival of activity and it is not unlikely that discoveries of considerable importance will be made this year. The price of silver, while falling off considerably during the past few days is much higher than at any time for years and it is likely to remain so. This means greater profits from operations and has given new life to the district, bringing larger returns to shareholders of silver mining companies and permitting increase in wages.

It is now nearly thirteen years since the men working on the railway built to tap the great clay belt of Northern Ontario first paid serious attention to the mineral deposits in the vicinity of Long lake, now Cobalt lake. Since then there has been produced about one-quarter billion ounces of silver worth about \$130,000,000. It is generally believed that the zenith of production has been passed and that most of the veins have been discovered. It is folly to conclude, however, that exploration has been so thorough as to preclude the possibility of very considerable bodies of rich ore being still unfound. In fact it is very probable that exploration will prove the existence in the heart of the Cobalt area of many deposits that have yet escaped discovery. Structural conditions indicate that there may be at Cobalt many undiscovered deposits which do not outcrop, which the surface prospector has no chance of finding.

It is true, as might be expected, that the companies operating at Cobalt have done much underground prospecting. The development and prospecting work at the mines has resulted in the discovery of very many veins which do not outcrop. It has proven also that the vertical extent of most of the deposits is very small and that most of the ore is enclosed in the lower part of sedimentary rocks of the Cobalt series close to the underlying Keewatin rocks.

Much of the underground prospecting has been disappointing. It has, however, afforded information regarding the structural features of the deposits and is therefore not without value. It is to be hoped that the information gained will be recorded in such a way that it may prove useful to operators exploring neighboring properties.

Some of the companies operating in one section of the Cobalt area have made arrangements for careful study of structural conditions and for their accurate recording with a view to more intelligently directing