

# CANADA'S PRODUCTION OF GOLD, SILVER COPPER AND LEAD.

**Last year showed a falling off in Gold; there is little Change in Silver, while the Other Metals Showed Considerable Decrease.**

The gold production in 1911 in Canada is estimated by the Department of Mines, as approximately \$9,762,006 which, compared with the 1910 production, \$10,205,835, shows a falling off of \$443,730. The Yukon placer production in 1911 is estimated at \$4,580,000 as against \$4,350,000 in 1910, the total exports on which royalty was paid during the calendar year, according to the records of the Interior Department, being 277,430.97 ounces in 1911 and 275,472.51 ounces in 1910. The British Columbia production in 1911 was \$4,989,524, of which the placer production, as estimated by the Provincial Mineralogist, was \$468,000, smelter recoveries and bullion obtained from milling ores being valued at \$4,521,524.

The production in Nova Scotia is estimated at \$142,000, all from milling ores. In Quebec there was a small recovery from alluvial workings and a small content in the pyrite ores shipped, the total value of production being \$12,443. Returns so far received from Ontario show a production of \$37,929. The exports of gold-bearing dust, nuggets, gold in ore, etc., in 1911 were valued at \$7,493,523.

Gold was imported during 1911 in bars, blocks, ingots, etc., to the value of \$924,233.

## SILVER.

The silver production of Canada, which has been very rapidly increasing during the past few years will probably show but little change in 1911. Returns so far received appear to indicate a falling off of about 128,516 ounces. The total production of the year is estimated at 32,740,748 ounces valued at \$17,452,128, of which 30,761,690 ounces were from Ontario, 1,910,323 ounces from British Columbia, 50,300 ounces from the Yukon and 18,435 ounces from Quebec. The production in Ontario was slightly greater than that of the previous year and in British Columbia a falling off of nearly half a million ounces is shown.

The total shipments of ore and concentrates from the Cobalt District and adjacent mines were about 16,234 tons, containing approximately 28,817,198 ounces, in addition to which 3,334,052 ounces were shipped as bullion. The average silver content of ore and concentrates shipped was thus about 1,744 ounces or \$29.62 per ton as compared with an average of 867 ounces in 1910 and 840 ounces in 1909. The 1911 shipments were chiefly high grade ore averaging over 3,400 ounces and concentrates averaging over 850 ounces.

The shipments in 1910 were 28,684 tons of ore containing 23,797,111 ounces of silver or an average of 830 ounces per ton; 6,943 tons of concentrates containing 7,111,579 ounces or an average of 1,024 ounces per ton and bullion containing 1,003,111 fine ounces. The exports of silver in ore, etc., as reported by the Customs Department were 31,216,725 ounces, valued at \$15,807,366. There was also an importation of silver in bars, blocks, sheets, etc., valued at \$847,645.

The price of refined silver in New York varied between a minimum of 51½ cents per ounce in February, and a maximum of 56½ cents in November, the average monthly price being 53.304 as compared with an average monthly price of 53.486 in 1910.

## COPPER.

There is practically no production of refined copper in Canada, and the production is represented by the copper contents of smelter products, matte and blister copper, produced, together with the amount of copper contained in ores exported estimated as recoverable.

The total production on this basis in 1911 was 55,848,665 pounds, valued at 6,911,831 as compared with 55,692,369 pounds valued at \$7,094,094 in 1910, an increase in quantity of 156,296 pounds, but a falling off in total value owing to the slightly lower price of copper in 1911. The total copper contents of ores shipped in 1911 was approximately 67,282,500 pounds, being 3,123,189 pounds from Quebec, 21,402,221 pounds from Ontario and 42,757,180 pounds from British Columbia. This record is of special interest as illustrating the distinction between ore contents and smelter recoveries.

Of the production or smelter recovery in 1911, Quebec province is credited with 2,436,100 pounds as against 877,347 pounds in 1910. This is altogether from pyrite ores, which are mined primarily for their sulphur contents. Ontario's

production in 1911 was 17,932,263 pounds as compared with 19,259,016 pounds in 1910, all being from the nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district. The production in British Columbia, notwithstanding the failure of the domestic coke supply due to strikes in the coal mines of the Crows Nest Pass district and the consequent shutting down of the Granby smelter for nearly five months, shows a slight increase, being estimated at 35,480,212 pounds in 1911 as against 35,270,000 pounds in 1910.

The New York price of electrolytic copper varied during the year between the limits of 11.85 cents and 14.05 cents per pound, the average being 12.376. During December the price ranged from 13 to 14 cents. The average monthly price in 1910 was 12.738 cents.

The total exports of copper contained in ore, matte and blister, etc., according to Customs Department returns were 55,287,710 pounds, valued at \$5,467,725 which agrees fairly closely with the record of production. The total imports of copper in 1911 were valued at \$4,936,459 and included crude and manufactured copper to the extent of 35,155,550 pounds valued at \$4,632,452; copper sulphate 2,191,800 pounds, valued at \$88,419, and other copper manufactures valued at \$215,588.

## LEAD.

The total production of pig and manufactured lead in 1911 was 23,525,050 pounds, valued at \$818,672 or an average of 3.48 cents per pound, the average wholesale or producer's price of pig lead in Montreal for the year. There was also a small production of lead concentrate from Calumet Island, Que., the shipments being about 45 tons.

The production of lead in 1910 was 32,087,508 pounds, thus showing a considerable falling off in 1911. The decrease is probably chiefly due to the diminished tonnage from the St. Eugene mine in East Kootenay and the idleness of some of the more important mines of the Slocan following the destruction of the Kaslo and Slocan Rv. by forest fires in 1910. The Bear Lake branch of the C.P.R. now under construction will provide shipment facilities for these properties.

The exports of lead in ore in 1911 are reported as 32 tons and of pig lead only 36 tons, as compared with exports of 23 tons and 3,856 tons respectively in 1910. The total value of the imports of lead and lead products in 1911 was \$1,049,276 including 13,135 tons in the form of pig lead, bars, sheets, tea lead, etc., valued at \$706,020; manufactures of lead, valued at \$108,012; litharge and lead pigments having an equivalent lead content of approximately 2,395 tons, valued at \$235,244. The total value of the imports of lead and lead products in 1910 was \$833,743 and with the exception of manufactures, valued at \$107,688, represented an equivalent lead content of 10,544 tons.

The average monthly price of lead in Montreal during 1911 was 3.48 cents per pound and in Toronto 3.53 cents. The average monthly price of lead in New York during the year was 4.42 cents and in London £13.970 per long ton equivalent to 3.035 cents per pound.

The amount of bounty paid during the twelve months ending December 31, 1911, on account of lead production was \$219,557.70, as compared with payments of \$318,308.28 in 1910.

## RIMOUSKI FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The thirty-fifth annual report of the Rimouski Fire Insurance Company appears on another page. This company, which has been operating under a Dominion license since 1907, now reports assets of \$361,591. These include cash in bank and on hand, \$157,731 and debentures, \$75,000, together with capital stock uncalled, \$50,000. The liabilities include the re-insurance reserve on the government standard, \$167,917 and reported and unadjusted losses, \$22,429. There is a surplus to policyholders of \$153,535. The company's subscribed capital is \$150,000.

During 1911, this company paid out in losses \$231,366, a figure that compares favorably with 1910. Mr. N. Bernier is president of the Rimouski Fire, and Mr. A. Audet, managing director. At Montreal, the company is represented by Mr. Alfred B. Dufresne, general agent, 62 St. James street.