

The Mineral Wealth of Quebec

IN the year 1900, the Province of Quebec produced in mineral wealth \$2,546,076. In 1918, the last authentic record, the corresponding figure was \$18,707,762—an increase of 635 per cent.

Steady Increase

For fifteen years mineral production has increased steadily, with the exception of the years 1914 and 1915, when the world upheaval retarded normal development in mining as it did in many other fields of industry.

To forecast the future of the Province is not within the scope of a presentation of facts, yet to any engineer or geologist the conclusion is inevitable that Quebec is in the earliest stages of the development of her mineral wealth. Her resources appear to be inexhaustible.

\$9,019,899 in Asbestos

In Asbestos alone, Quebec's production in 1918 was over nine million dollars. This easily leads all other products of the mines for the Province. Whether this lead can be maintained in view of the discovery of Zinc and Lead in the Gaspé Peninsula remains to be seen.

Zinc and Lead are considered together in engineering circles because they usually are associated in Nature. The ore usually contains both Zinc Blende and Galena (Sulphide of Lead) in varying proportions.

Zinc and Lead

The value of Zinc and Lead deposits depends as much on the milling possibilities of the ore as upon the tonnage, and such deposits as have been worked commercially in this Province have not attracted the most favorable notice because of the presence of iron and other impurities which rendered the ore difficult to treat economically.