

Canada's Natural Resources and Her Industrial Development

The Dickson Bridge Works Company of Campbellford, has just received an additional shell contract amounting to \$35,000. The contract calls for 90 lb. shells. A previous order was for 18 lb. shells.

North Vancouver is to have a new industry if the plans of J. B. Johnson of Vancouver carry. He is planning to erect a creosoting plant which will employ about 60 men. The outlay will reach \$100,000.

Canada is helping Lloyd George by releasing for munitions work in England about 1,000 skilled mechanics from among the Canadian troops who have gone overseas. The request for their release came some days ago, and was promptly acceded to by the minister of militia.

For the first time in the history of the Cobalt camp a shipment of copper left the district. It was consigned to the United States Metals Refining Company at Chrome, by the Rand syndicate, and it consisted of 47,912 pounds. It came from the copper prospect at Portage Bay on the Montreal River, near Latchford, and was teamed out from that point to be treated at Cobalt before the ice made on the river.

The annual mineral output of British Columbia is valued at approximately \$30,000,000. The figures for 1913 exceeded that amount, while the product last year was some \$4,000,000 short of that of the previous year. The decrease in the value of minerals produced in the province last year as compared with 1913, was due to the European war, which disturbed the metal markets throughout the world, producing a depressing effect on the industry in British Columbia.

Seventeen months of the European war, according to a report issued by Dr. Thomas H. Norton, the United States Government's dyestuff expert, has seen American manufacture of dyes increase fivefold; and now that country is producing one-half of the colors it normally uses. Hope is held out that by 1917 the great bulk of artificial dyes consumed will be made by American works from American raw material. Proposed legislation to block ruinous foreign competition in dyestuffs at the end of the war is endorsed.

Ground has just been broken in London, England, for a huge new permanent exhibition to be known as the Palace of Industry.

The building, located at Willesden Green, about six miles distant from the centre of the city, will cover an area of 610,000 square feet, nearly four times the size of any similar building in London. It will be opened early in 1917 with an exhibition known as the "Industries of the Empire Fair," which is planned to be "the greatest trade exhibition ever organized." The fair will be under the co-operative auspices of the principal trade organizations of the British empire, and over 3,000 exhibitors representing 70 distinct lines of business already have applied for space. The frontage of the stalls will reach an aggregate of 12 miles in length. It is to be solely a display of British goods; no foreign exhibits whatever will be allowed.

The Alberta Farmers' Co-Operative company will probably construct 20 or even 30 elevators the coming season. "We constructed a number last year," said C. Rice-Jones, president, "and with the abundant harvest of the past season, the demonstrated shortage space when the province is visited with a great crop, and the probability of another good crop for the coming year, we will undoubtedly carry on quite a programme of construction during the coming season as well.

From information gathered in connection with the managers of the larger elevator companies operating in the province, from the managers of the big milling companies which own their own elevator lines, and from information learned from several grain companies, the conclusion is drawn that Alberta will add to her elevator list by probably 150 new plants to be constructed the coming spring and summer.

It was learned at a recent meeting of the St. John Common Council that the Dominion Government, anticipating an increase in immigration after the war, is planning on a \$180,000 immigration building at St. John.

Exports of war materials from the United States now average more than \$1,000,000 per day according to statistics compiled by the foreign trade department of the National City Bank.

The only countries in the world that grow more wheat than Canada at the present time are the United States and Russia, so we occupy the third place in the wheat producing countries of the world. The wheat grown in the North-West is admitted by millers to be the finest quality in the world and to-day it brings the highest prices in the leading wheat markets of Europe.

Reports presented at the 49th annual convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association showed that 1915 was the most prosperous year in the history of the dairy industry in Ontario. This prosperity was bound to continue, whether war or peace prevailed, according to the predictions of all speakers. Secretary Frank Hens, of London, reported that there are now in Western Ontario 151 cheese factories, with 11,112 patrons, the cheese production for 1915 being 20 per cent above last year. There are now 125 creameries in Western Ontario, with 32,523 patrons.

Charles E. Webster, Secretary of the western branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association with offices at Winnipeg, complained in an interview that western manufacturers were not getting their fair share of war orders coming to Canada, and intimated that there was a strong possibility of western manufacturers breaking away from the parent organization and setting up for themselves.

"Our eastern brethren are hogging the whole thing," declared Mr. Webster, adding that "something decisive and radical must be done soon to gain for the Canadian west its just proportion of war orders secured for this country."

It was stated that of the \$5,000,000 worth of war orders awarded to Canada last month only \$150,000 worth had gone to western manufacturers.

A statement of the shell business that has been transacted in Canada in behalf of the British government since the outbreak of the war shows that there have been orders given to Canada for 22,800,000 shells, and that over 8,000,000 shells out of that number have already gone forward to Britain. The cost of all the component parts required in the manufacturing of the total order for shells, including the machinery and assembling, is estimated at \$282,000,000. In addition there have been orders from the war office for cartridge cases, primers, forgings, etc., amounting to \$20,000,000, making a total slightly exceeding \$300,000,000. The latest available figures show that there are some 422 plants engaged in filling contracts at the present time under the direction of the Imperial munitions board.

Extensive experiments in the growing of hemp for binder twines and cordage will be undertaken this year in the three provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, according to information given out at the Canadian Pacific Industrial department at Calgary.

"Millions of dollars have been expended in the Canadian west for binder twine," said John F. Sweeting, industrial commissioner, "and if hemp can be properly grown here it would mean a saving of that sum to Canadian industry."

Mr. Sweeting explained that experiments in a high-grade hemp, the seed of which was imported from Kentucky, were made in growing last season, but that owing to the fact that most of it got hailed out, the results of the experiments had not been a satisfactory test. The growing of hemp in the experiments of the coming season will be made in the three western prairie provinces for the purpose of ascertaining which provincial climate is best adapted to the growing of hemp, what qualities are produced in the product in the various climates, and which are the most advantageous.

A resolution was passed at the recent convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association favoring amending the Canada Grain Act by striking out the words "red fife" so that the description will read "hard wheat" instead of "hard red fife wheat."

The Province of Saskatchewan has appointed a commission to investigate conditions in marketing live stock. The commission is composed of W. C. Sutherland, Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dr. O. D. Skelton and J. D. McGregor.

Representatives of the Gray-Dort Motors Limited, who recently opened a new plant in Chatham, Ont., were in Toronto recently to choose a location for a distributing office. The new machine is a five-passenger touring car, which completely equipped will sell for \$850.

The new coal seam discovered as the result of boring operations by the Acadia Coal Company on their property in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, is said to be the most important in that well-known coal field in many years. The quality of the coal is stated to be very superior and the thickness of the seam ideal for working. The old workings of the Acadia are very old and expensive to work. Sir Montague Allan and other Montrealers are largely interested in the Acadia.

The Province of Quebec spent \$229,000 for colonization purposes in the year ended June 30, 1915. Work was executed on 609 miles of roads, of which 180 miles were completed as winter roads, 156 miles rolled, and 271 miles repaired. Bridges were constructed and repaired for a total of 12,201 feet. Of the \$229,000 disbursed, \$4,000 was given to immigration societies.

Pelts to the value of nearly \$600,000 is the record of the fur year of Saskatchewan, according to official figures obtained this evening. One hundred and thirty-one dealers are shown as being in the fur trade for the last year, bringing in a total of 961,849, as compared with 716,182 pelts for the year before. According to the figures, muskrat skins were in the lead with a total of 892,960, the lowest pelts being white foxes, of which only six are reported.

That there has been substantial increases in activities of the provincial agricultural societies during the past year was indicated by figures announced by S. E. Greeway, director of agricultural extension work in Saskatchewan at the inaugural session of the agricultural societies convention held in Saskatoon a few days ago.

Five new societies have been added during the year, bringing the total number to 113. This number does not include the grain growers' locals, nor the societies in organized districts, of which there are between 15 and 20.

It is claimed by one of the largest Canadian rubber companies that its chemists have invented a method of producing synthetically a new substance that should prove of great economic value. This new substance has been given the name of Neolin by its inventors. It is claimed that it will displace leather in some extensive fields. The inventors emphatically state that the new compound is not leather and not rubber. Though the invention of this new substance is only recently announced to the public, the product has been manufactured in a quiet manner, and submitted for criticism to many prominent men dealing in the various lines in which it is likely to take the place of leather.

Another big, new industrial development in Canada consequent upon war necessities and opportunities is likely to be the refining within the Dominion of the millions of dollars' worth of nickel matter from Sudbury, which now goes to New Jersey for refining. It is stated on reliable authority that the Government is now considering arrangements for requiring refining in Canada, thus keeping control of the export of a commodity so largely used in armament manufacture, and at the same time taking advantage of present war conditions to establish permanently in Canada an industry that will prove immensely valuable when peace comes.

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