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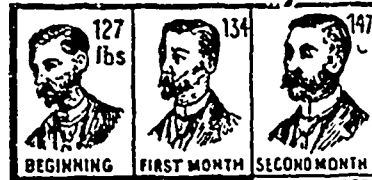
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**MINING.**

**THE CANADIAN MINERAL EXHIBIT AT CHICAGO.**

*Specially Reported for the Engineering and Mining Journal.*

Judging by its display in the Mining Building, Canada seems to have early been alive to the opportunities afforded by the Exposition for bringing her natural resources to the conspicuous notice of the world. Thanks to the efforts of late Executive Commissioner Hon. Wm. Saunders and his successor, the present incumbent, Hon. J. S. Larke, the possibilities of a fine mineral display from Canada were early realized. The Canadian Geological Survey has long been known for the work it has performed in opening up the great tracts of mineral country, and some of its members, through their study of Canadian minerals and strata, have become eminent in different branches of science. Besides this, the different provinces are active in promoting the mining interests within their boundaries, and in some cases have special mining commissions, whose duty it is to inquire into the practical working of mines, as well as to promote further extension of the industry. The executive Commissioners therefore had a good field for operations. The Survey and its workers were at their call, and duplicates from the large Geological Museum at Ottawa at command. For a presentation of the special and local minerals they depended upon the pride and patriotism of the several provinces. Four came forward and signified their intention of making competitive exhibits. First and most prominent was

**ONTARIO.**

Ontario is a province abounding in mineral wealth, has a great amount of capital invested in mining, and proposed to make the largest exhibit of minerals. Therefore she was granted the conspicuous position she occupied upon the main central aisle of the building. This frontage was treated in an elaborate fashion, a central arch being appropriately decorated with the emblems of the province. At the right of this arch, slabs and cubes of the marbles and building and ornamental stone of the province were built up to form series of trophies representing the products of its leading quarries. The granites exhibited by the Canadian Granite Company are found in the Thunder Bay and Nipissing districts, quite close to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and are largely used for monumental work. The most beautiful slabs were those of the conglomerated jaspers, deep red in tone with veins of red or green. In the collection were a number of very attractive serpentines, sandstones and limestones. The marbles vary in colour from black to green, gray, pink and white. This exhibit was largely made by the Hungerford Marble Company. The samples were of high structural strength, as shown by special tests, and the quarries from which they come are most advantageously worked, the stratification being almost vertical. A collection of polished cubes from the Nepigon district, north of Lake Superior, showed peculiar richness in banded and clouded colors, and they can be used to good effect for paneling and interior work.

To the left of the main arch the mineral waters, oils and waxes and salts were ranged in a series of pyramids, and formed a particularly striking contrast with the dark ores which form the background of the exhibit. The oil was exhibited by the Imperial Oil Company, the largest producer in the Province. This company commenced operations in 1859, at the very inception of the Canadian oil industry. The principal wells are at Petrolia, but the works extend over an area of 65 acres, and then have pipe lines running to all parts of the oil-producing territory. Although the Canadian crude contains less illuminating oil than the Pennsylvania crude, it is richer in lubricating oils and paraffine. A bust of Sir John MacDonaid made of paraffine wax was exhibited; it was executed by Hamilton McCarthy, of Toronto. The principal oil districts are Petrolia, Oil Springs, Essex and Manitoulin Island, all situated in the counties bordering the St. Clair and Detroit rivers. These counties make Ontario the leading, almost the only, producer of both oil and salt in the Dominion. The salt shown was from Warwick, and was singularly pure, running over 97 per cent chlorid of sodium. The exhibit was made by the Elartoc Salt Works, which works the beds at a depth of 1,000 ft. The mineral waters were from the celebrated Caledonia Springs.

The visitor was confronted, as he entered the main court, by the great nickel exhibit that formed the central feature of the display, as the mining of the metal itself is the most prominent industry in the Province. This exhibit was fully described and illustrated in the *Engineering and Mining Journal* for September 16th, page 289, and the engravings there given show also the general arrangement and appearance of the Ontario Exhibit.

The remainder of the court was filled up with select collections of the exceedingly varied economic minerals of the Province, such for instance as lithographic stone, coal, marl, kaolin, moulding clay, mica, feldspar and gypsum. Graphite occurs in workable quantities in three counties. The asbestos exhibited was of the hornblende type, and is found in the County of Addington as well as in the Ottawa Valley. The crystalline prisms of apatite vary from 1 in. to 1 ft. in length. This material is found in the lower Laurentian rocks of eastern Ontario. Dark green and brown crystals of apatite were shown by Renfrew, Frontenac and Leeds Counties. This phosphate carries from 70 to 90 per cent of phosphate of lime to the ton.

Altogether some 1 557 specimens were catalogued in the entire display, and covered nearly all of the formations and varieties found in the province. As stated by Mr. David Boyle, Superintendent of Mineralogical Exhibit for the province: "The object kept constantly in view was rather to make a good, general, average display, than to bring together a quantity of unusually rich specimens." The Ontario government, by placing its mineral interests at the Exposition in the hands of Commissioner Avey and Superintendent Boyle, fortunately secured two able representatives. Mr. Avey was in charge of all the Ontario exhibits at the Exposition. Mr.