

### NOVA SCOTIA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The Report of the Nova Scotia Department of Mines for the year ended September 30, 1910, has reached us just as we are going to press. In our April 1st issue we shall give this report the usual extended notice. Just now we can notice only the leading features.

The number of tons (gross) of coal raised was 5,477,146. Shipments amounted to 4,896,896 tons, of which amount the St. Lawrence trade took 1,786,948 tons, and Nova Scotia itself, 1,806,999 tons. Of this last amount, 442,764 tons were consumed at the collieries. We note that the output per man employed has gone up to 500 tons per year, as against 430 tons during the previous year.

Gold mining did not hold its own during 1910. The production amounted to 10,675 ounces, a slight falling off as compared with 1909. The average yield per ton of ore was \$4.09. This figure is, of course, a very rough approximation. The decline in gold mining is officially attributed to "insufficient capital, scarcity of good labour, past wildecating, unintelligent direction of operations, [high] cost of fuel, and lack of prospecting." It is to be noted that, whilst this diagnosis is sufficiently comprehensive, each and every ailment mentioned is remediable.

The only locality at which iron ore is being produced is Torbrook. Here the Canada Iron Corporation mined 52,640 short tons during 1910. Of this quantity about 11,000 tons were shipped to the United States and to Scotland. Large shipments are to be made this year. It is possible, also, that ore may be produced at Arisaig, Antigonish County.

Manganese and tin have not yet emerged from the prospect stage. The mining of scheelite, however, is being actively pushed at Moose River, Halifax County. A shipment of 75 tons of high grade ore was made during the year, and much larger quantities will be sold during the current year.

Although the Province's gypsum quarries yielded 322,974 tons of that mineral, only 10,50 tons were utilized by local manufacturers. The remainder was shipped crude to the United States. We believe that in the preparation and marketing of finished gypsum products, on a suitable scale, there should be considerable profit. The report draws attention specifically to this.

The brick and clay industries have not expanded, and the building stone trade has diminished to a few thousand tons.

The total impression that remains after glancing through the report is that Nova Scotia is about as badly in need of prospecting and exploitation as any country can be.

### A BREEZE FROM THE NORTH.

About five hundred men interested in the Elk Lake-Gowganda districts, which are situated in the Montreal River Mining Division of Ontario, recently waited on

the Government asking that the Charlton Branch of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway be extended to Elk Lake and Gowganda in order to provide economical transportation to facilitate development work and mining operation in the districts mentioned.

An organization meeting was held on the 14th instant at which a good deal of steam was let off and speakers chosen to present the case to the Government. The deputation was introduced by Mr. R. Shillington, M.L.A., and received by the Honourable Frank Cochrane, Minister of Mines and Forests, and a number of his colleagues.

Many arguments were put forward to prove that the extension of the Government railroad should be made in the interests of mining, lumbering, and farming, and there was evidence of earnestness and feeling in the language of the speakers.

During the progress of the meeting, Premier Sir James P. Whitney honoured it with his presence for a few minutes, repeated the platitudes with which delegations are so familiar, and retired.

The Minister of Mines candidly told the delegation that the policy of the Government was to protect its timber resources in the Temagami Forest Reserve rather than to encourage further encroachment by prospectors, miners, or railroads. He deplored the serious losses that the forest reserve had suffered through fire during the past few years, implying that those engaged in prospecting and mining were responsible. This is a matter of opinion, but no effort was made to controvert it at the meeting. Whilst the Minister's attitude may be commendable, at this late day it is hardly fair to men engaged in the mining industry, when they are seeking to redeem investments already made.

Whether the Province has benefitted financially or not by the sale of mining locations in the sections referred to, the men who have paid the Government for mining locations should meet with its fullest support in their efforts to reap where they have sown. Had the Government closed the Temagami Forest Reserve against prospecting and mining, as they did the Gillies Timber Limit, the present unfortunate situation would not have arisen. It is useless to talk of locking the stable door when the key has been lost.

After reviewing the arguments which had been made by the various speakers, Mr. Cochrane took the position that the claims put forward as to the probable tonnage of ore, pulpwood, and other products that might be produced and shipped from the district, should be investigated and reported upon to the Government before a decision could be reached.

A committee was thereupon appointed at his suggestion, representing the Government, the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railroad, and the miners, to carry out the investigation, and the Minister promised that an immediate decision would be given on receipt of its report.