

MINING IN ONTARIO.

A THRIVING AND PROGRESSIVE INDUSTRY.

Report of the Bureau of Mines for 1900—Great Expansion in Iron Mining—Yield for First Three Months of 1901 Compared With That of the Whole of 1900—Some Interesting Figures.

No branch of industry has made greater strides in this province during the last few years than that of mining by the increased information now accessible as to the location and extent of the vast mineral resources of New Ontario, which await development. The record of the past year's progress in this important department is furnished by the tenth annual report of the Bureau of Mines for 1900, which has just been published by the Provincial Crown Lands Department. In addition to a comprehensive general report setting forth the details and prospects of each branch of mining, prepared by Mr. T. W. Gibson, Director of Mines, giving full particulars as to the output of the year, the volume comprises a number of special reports by the inspectors and papers by mineralogical experts of much interest to capitalists and prospectors.

The Year's Record.

The output of minerals for 1900 had a total value of \$9,298,624, showing an increase of 10 per cent. over the yield during 1899, which was valued at \$8,416,083. The number of workmen employed was 10,934, an increase of 9 per cent. and the amount paid in wages, \$3,366,601, an increase of 15 per cent. over the corresponding figures for 1899. A satisfactory feature of the situation is that the list of mineral products is growing in addition to the increase in the volume of production in the staple items. Three new industries appear for the first time in the returns, namely, corundum, feldspar and steel, all as yet of course in the infant stage. The value of the steel output was \$46,380 and that of the three combined \$57,380. In addition to the figures for the past year partial statistics relating to the metal production for the first three months of 1901 are also given from which it appears that the current season is likely to throw a considerable further increase in the volume of production more especially in iron, nickel and copper mining. The total metallic output of the three months was \$827,860, as compared with \$2,541,131, the yield of the same metals for 1900.

The Iron Output.

A very notable advance is recorded in connection with the iron mining and smelting industry which may be said to have entered upon a new era in consequence of the opening of the great Helen mine in the Michipicoton division concerning the operations of which full information is given. The total production of iron ore was 90,302 from 12 mines, valued at \$111,805. The increase over the previous year was 73,391 tons in quantity and \$80,854 in value. The employees numbered 438 and the wages paid aggregated \$107,583, as compared with 100 men and \$26,700 in 1899. The total production of pig iron was 62,386, showing a slight falling off in quantity, but owing to the considerable increase in the price, the value amounting to \$936,066, was \$127,909 in excess of that for the year previous. Most of the ore smelted was imported from the United States, 22,887 tons, or 23 per cent. being from Ontario mines. With the opening of mines in the Michipicoton district where an adequate supply of hematite ore is available, the proportion of native ore smelted is growing steadily larger and during the first three months of 1900 had risen to 43 per cent. The number of workmen employed in the blast furnaces last year was 419 and the wages paid \$97,915, as against 200 men and \$79,869 in 1899. The Provincial Government bounty paid for the manufacture of pig iron out of native ore was \$6,737 in 1900, and the aggregate paid during the last five years was \$34,741. The discovery of the extent of the iron-bearing region which is now known to include a large area east of Lake Nipigon presenting a rock foundation similar to that characteristic of the iron regions to the south of Lake Superior has greatly stimulated explorations which are being conducted on an extensive scale in the hope of locating deposits which can be worked to advantage. The work is considerably expedited by the use of the Government diamond drills.

Nickel and Copper Mines.

A very substantial and encouraging increase in nickel and copper production is shown. Last year's nickel output being 3,540 tons, value \$756,626, as compared with 2,872 tons, worth \$526,104 in 1899. Copper yielded 3,364 tons, valued at \$319,681, as against 2,834 tons of the value of \$176,236 for the previous year. These metals are exported in the form of matte to be refined abroad, and the values of the finished metal are considerably greater. The workmen employed numbered 1,444 of whom 350 were engaged underground. They received wages amounting to \$728,946. In 1899 the number of men employed was 839, wages paid, \$443,879.

The Precious Metals.

The production of gold has some-

what declined, owing to the cessation of work at several mines. The yield for last year was 18,767 ounces worth \$297,861, that for 1899 being 27,594 ounces, valued at \$424,568. The year's output came from 18 properties employing 750 men and the wages paid aggregating \$350,694. A promising gold-bearing region has been discovered near Sturgeon Lake, where free gold has been found. The yield of silver is increasing as 160,612 ounces of the value of \$96,367, were taken out, as compared with 105,467 ounces, value \$65,575, in 1899.

Other Products.

There is a marked increase in the production of cement, the value of the output being \$698,015, or \$136,749 over the figures for 1899. Mica has also risen from \$38,000 to \$91,750, owing to the discovery and operation of large deposits in Eastern Ontario. Petroleum and its products show an increase from \$1,747,352 to \$1,869,045, while the production of natural gas is on the decrease, though eleven new wells were put down. The value of the building materials produced was \$2,689,351, showing a slight increase.

Among the other valuable matter appearing in the volume of a report by Prof. A. P. Coleman on the iron ranges of the Lower Huronian, in which he compares the geological structure of our iron-bearing region with that of Michigan and Wisconsin. The same writer also furnishes a comprehensive paper on the Sea Beaches of Eastern Ontario, proving from the character of fossil remains that the ocean has left numerous traces of its former presence in this province. Another short paper gives an account of the important work performed at the Provincial Assay Office, Belleville, in aid of the prospector's operations. The report is well arranged and carefully indexed and contains numerous illustrations of mining. It will be found of practical value by all concerned in mining or metal-working operations.

AN ASSINIBOIAN GIANT.

Traveler From Moose Jaw Astonishes Union Station Habitues.

There are some men about the Union Station, Toronto, who think themselves big, but on a recent Saturday they were forced to admit that they were not in the same class with a young Assinibioian who happened in from Moose Jaw. His name is Edward Beaupre, and although twenty years of age, he is doing nicely for a youth, and weighs 367 pounds, and stands seven feet ten inches. The young giant was accompanied by his father, Gaspard Beaupre, who is a rancher, living near Moose Jaw, and who is a man not over five feet ten inches in height.

Mr. Beaupre, the elder, states that his wife and the other children are of ordinary size, and that Edward was not unusually large until he was ten years old, from which time his rapid growth dates. Edward "rode" the range until he became too heavy for a horse, and during the last few years has looked after cattle from the seat of a dogcart. Young Beaupre is strong, healthy and well proportioned, and is certainly one of the largest men Canada has yet produced.

A Beautiful Canadian City.

The people of Kingston, Ont., think their city one of the most beautiful on the continent, as far as natural advantages are concerned, and this opinion is certainly deserved, says T. Darley Allen in Boston Ideas. The city is situated at the foot of Lake Ontario, just where the River St. Lawrence begins, and quite near the famous Thousand Islands. The view of the place as one comes in the harbor is truly magnificent. On a hill overlooking the city is a fort, and the few martello towers in the lake, not far from the shore, give the place the appearance of a fortified town in Europe. The large provincial penitentiary and the asylum for the insane, along the shore to the extreme west of the city, the Military College at the other extreme, and between them the large handsome city hall and churches, all present a grand appearance from the lake. The visitor to the Pan-American, no matter where he comes from, should not return before paying a visit to this interesting place. Do not fail to take a trip on Kingston harbor.

Kingston is a prominent literary centre. It is the seat of the Queen's University, and the home of Principal Grant, a widely-known man of letters. Near here the late Grant Allen was born, and Gilbert Parker, the noted novelist, was once a resident of the city.

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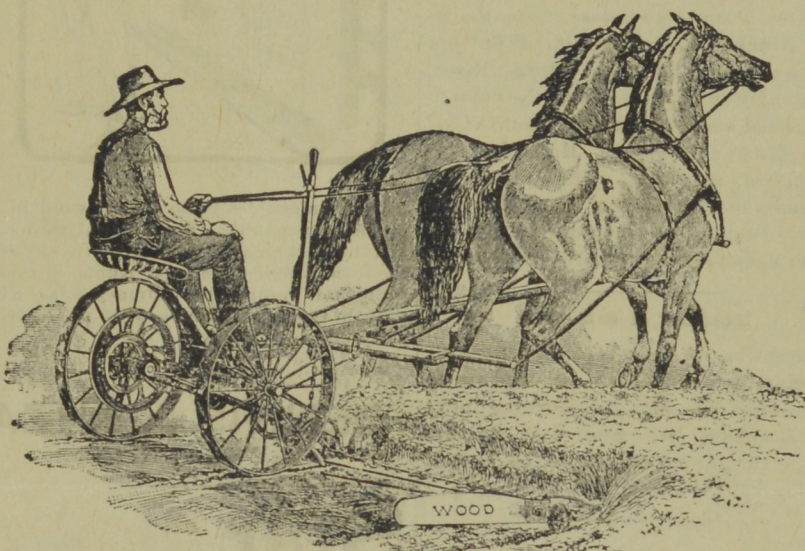
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