

NICKEL.

In 1883 the first discovery of a deposit of nickeliferous pyrrhotite was made while the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was making a cutting through a small hill near Sudbury, in the District of Algoma, Ontario. The ore, which contains on the average about 2.25 per cent of nickel, is roasted and smelted into a copper-nickel matte, the usual composition of which, from average analysis, is about as follows:—Copper, 26.91; nickel, 14.14; iron, 31.335; sulphur, 26.95; and cobalt, .935. The matte is also said to contain some ounces of platinum to the ton. The amount of fine nickel in the matte produced at the Sudbury mines in 1889-97 is given below.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF NICKEL.

Calendar Year.	Lbs.	Calendar Year.	Lbs.
1889	830,477	1894	4,907,430
1890	1,435,742	1895	3,888,525
1891	4,626,637	1896	3,397,113
1892	2,413,717	1897 ^a	3,997,647
1893	3,982,982		

^a Subject to revision.

PETROLEUM.

Petroleum has been found in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and particularly in the North-west Territories, where it seems certain there is an immense unexplored oil region, but it is in the county of Lambton, Ontario, whence most of the oil has been and is obtained, Oil Springs and Petrolia being the largest oil-producing districts. The oil is obtained at a depth of from 370 to 500 feet.

The following table contains the only trustworthy statistics of Canadian production of oil that are available, and these figures do not give the total production, since the quantity of crude oil, used as such, is not included:—

CANADIAN PETROLEUM AND NAPHTHA INSPECTED AND CORRESPONDING QUANTITIES OF CRUDE OIL, 1881-97.

Year ended 30th June.	Refined Oils.	Crude equivalent calculated.
	Imp. galls.	Imp. galls.
1881.....	6,406,783	12,813,566
1882.....	5,910,787	13,131,993
1883.....	6,970,550	15,490,111
1884.....	7,686,011	19,140,027
1885.....	7,661,617	19,154,042
1886.....	8,149,472	21,445,979
1887.....	8,243,962	21,694,637