

mines show the ore shipped from that district as approximately 14,557 tons, containing 9,914,056 oz. of silver. At the average price of refined silver for the year, this would be worth \$6,476,555, and it represents an average return of 681 oz. of silver, or \$444.87, per ton of ore shipped.

The foregoing particulars are abstracted from the preliminary report on the mineral production of Canada in 1907 issued by the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa. The following statement having special reference to the Cobalt mines has been furnished by Mr. Thomas W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines for the Province of Ontario :

The Cobalt
Mining Camp,
Ontario.

The silver mines of the Cobalt camp, in which the first discoveries were made in 1903, gave the Province of Ontario in 1907 a high place among the silver-producing communities of the world. From twenty-eight operating mines 14,810 tons of ore were shipped containing 10,005,000 ounces of silver, the average contents per ton of ore shipped being 677 ounces. So far the shipments have been largely confined to the richer ores, some of which average as high as 5,000 or 6,000 ounces per ton in car-lots, but the low-grade ores of the camp, assaying 150 ounces or less per ton, are beginning to accumulate in large quantity, and will usefully employ the concentrating plants already at work or being constructed. The principal mines are: Nipissing, O'Brien, Con'agas, La Rose, Kerr Lake, Buffalo, McKinley-Darragh-Savage, Trethewey, Temiskamingue, Right-of-Way, Drummond, Cobalt Silver Queen, Temiskaming and Hudson Bay, Foster and Nova Scotia. Besides silver, the Cobalt ores contain cobalt, nickel and arsenic. For the most part the ore is purchased by smelting establishments in the United States, but there are two refineries now in operation in Ontario, one at Copper Cliff, owned by the Orford Copper Company, and the other at Deloro operated by the Deloro Mining and Reduction Company. A few lots of silver-free cobalt ore have been shipped to cobalt oxide manufacturers in Wales. Recently, ores similar to those of Cobalt have been found on the Montreal River about 40 miles northwest of Cobalt, and on the shores of Lake Temiskaming about 20 miles southeast of Cobalt. Up to December 31, 1907, the dividends paid by Cobalt mining companies amounted to \$3,847,344.19, exclusive of the profits of several close corporations, which would bring the total to about five millions of dollars. The number of producing mines is increasing. Ontario is now producing about one-eighteenth of the total silver production of the world.

The Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint was established in pursuance of The Ottawa Mint Act, 1901 (1 Edw. VII, c. 4), under which an annual sum not exceeding \$75,000 is payable to the Imperial Treasury for the purpose of defraying the salaries of officials and other expenses of the Mint, the fees and all sums received being retained by Canada. Organized upon the same lines as the Branch Mints which have for many years existed in the Australian Colonies, the new Branch Mint in Canada supplies a long felt need and is expected to have beneficial effects upon the trading interests of the country. It has been somewhat of an anomaly that Canada as an important metal-producing country should be dependent upon other countries for the refining of its precious metals and for the coinage required in metallic currency. The Mint will issue gold, silver and copper coins for circulation in Canada, and sovereigns and half-sovereigns coined will be legal tender in every country under the British flag. Considerable profits are made in the coinage of silver, of which a great deal is required in Canada, and these

Ottawa
Branch of the
Royal Mint.