

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

dollar in gold and silver per ton. The most important producing mines are in the vicinity of Phoenix and at Deadwood, about four miles from Phoenix. The deposits of copper ores at Howe sound are believed to be very large, and extensive development work is in progress. They contain small quantities of gold and silver. The deposits of copper ores near Granby bay, about 110 miles from Prince Rupert, have proved very important. The copper ores of the Rossland district are smelted at Trail, forming a matte containing copper, silver and gold, which is sent to the United States for refining. The copper ores of the Boundary district are smelted at Grand Forks and at Greenwood. There is also a copper-smelting plant at Ladysmith, on the east side of Vancouver island, and a very large and completely equipped smelting plant recently commenced operations at Anyox, on Granby bay.

The late Dr. G. M. Dawson, while Assistant Director of the Canadian Geological Survey, stated before a committee of the Dominion Senate, in 1888, that there was every reason to believe that the rocks along the Coppermine river were as rich in copper as those in the lake Superior district of Michigan. Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, reporting on the copper possibilities of the far north, said:

The copper-bearing rocks would seem to extend along the Arctic coast, both east and west of Coppermine river for about five hundred miles in all, and probably many of the smaller islands off the coast are also of the same rocks, and the total area of these rocks undoubtedly amounts to many thousands of square miles. Comparing the early accounts of the occurrence of native copper on lake Superior with the accounts which we now possess of the copper on Coppermine river, and considering the enormous extent of the northern deposits, we have reasonable grounds for hope that before many years the Coppermine area will produce as much copper as is now mined in northern Michigan.

The Eskimos of the far north all have spear and arrow heads, needles, etc., beaten out of pure copper. The Eskimos who come to Fort Churchill to trade have snow-knives, ice-chisels, and fish hooks made out of native copper. They use copper tops over their pipes while smoking, and any break in their guns is usually mended with copper. From the stories they tell it would appear that there are great quantities of native copper along the Arctic coast and on the islands of the Arctic, near the coast. So little real exploration for any minerals has been done in the Northwest Territories that it is impossible to speak very definitely of the general mineral possibilities, but experts of the Canadian Geological Survey have expressed the opinion that the rocks in the country, back of Chesterfield inlet, are similar in character to the Huronian rocks of Ontario which have yielded such rich results in copper, nickel, silver and gold. Coal of good quality is said to exist on some of the northern islands.

Asbestos.—The asbestos deposits of the province of Quebec are the most important yet discovered anywhere, and they are said to supply 80 p.c. of the world's consumption. The principal deposits so far discovered are at Thetford, Black lake, Robertsonville, Dunville and East Broughton, in the counties of Megantic and Richmond. Large mills are in operation preparing the asbestos for the market.