

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

The fact that the population of the Prairie Provinces is not yet great enough to justify the manufacture of pig-iron and steel, and the great distance from any outside iron-making centre where iron ores could be sold, has prevented any systematic search for iron ores, but explorers have reported many indications of the existence of deposits of hematite, limonite and clay iron-stone in the northern part of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

On the mainland of British Columbia iron ore deposits have been reported at many points, including among others Kamloops, Kitchener, Bull Run and Bermis, but no development work has been done, and there is no information available regarding the extent and character of the deposits. On both the east and west coasts of Vancouver island and on the smaller islands between Vancouver island and the mainland there are many deposits of iron ore, some of which are merely pockets, but according to a report made by Mr. Einar Lindeman for the Mines Branch, Department of Mines, there are deposits of magnetite which appear to be of economic importance in the following localities: In the valley of the Gordon river, a few miles from Port San Juan on the west coast; at several places in the vicinity of Barclay sound on the west coast; at Head bay, Nootka sound, on the west coast; at Nimpkish river, a few miles from Alert bay on the northeast coast; in the vicinity of the Quinsam river, a tributary of the Campbell river which flows into the gulf of Georgia; and on Texada island between Vancouver island and the mainland. All these deposits are high in iron, very low in phosphorus and rather high in sulphur, but the sulphur could be roasted out. There are very large supplies of good limestone both on Texada island and Vancouver island, while none of these iron deposits is far distant from the coal mines of Vancouver island.

Molybdenum and Tungsten.—The war created a great demand for molybdenum and tungsten. The Mines Branch of the Department of Mines reports that shipments of molybdenite ores were made from at least seventeen different localities in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia in 1916. The largest producers were the mines at Quyon, Pontiac county, Quebec, owned by the Canadian Wood Molybdenite Company, said to be the largest producers of molybdenite ore and concentrates in North America.

Important producers in Ontario were the Chisholm mine in Sheffield township, Addington county; the Spain mine in the township of Griffith, Renfrew county; and the Renfrew Molybdenum Mines, Mount St. Patrick, county of Renfrew. The Mines Branch of the Department of Mines perfected a system of concentrating molybdenite ores at their testing laboratories in Ottawa and by arrangement with the Imperial Munitions Board concentrates 100 tons of molybdenite ore weekly. The shipper of the ore is paid a fixed price in proportion to the molybdenum contents of the ore. The Canadian Wood Molybdenite Company have two concentrating mills, one at their mines and the other at Hull. There are also concentrating mills at Renfrew and Mount St. Patrick. Most of the concentrates are sent to the International Molybdenum Company at Orillia, Ontario, and to the Trivani Electric Steel Company at Belleville, Ont. At Orillia, ferro-molybdenum, molybdic acid and ammonium molybdate are produced; at Belleville only ferro-molyb-