

MINERALS.

great demand for use as a flux by pig iron and steel makers. Fluorspar had not been produced in Ontario since 1911, nor lead since 1912; asbestos is a new item for Ontario. Gold shows a production of 497,833 oz., of the value of \$10,339,259, an increase over 1915 of 86,245 oz., or \$1,837,868. The total shipments of silver amounted to 20,007,367 fine oz. of the value of \$12,703,591, as compared with 24,823,660 oz. in 1915 of the value of \$12,174,312. The average value of the silver works out to 63.511 cents per oz. In New York the average price for the year was 66.661 cents per oz., as compared with 49 69 cents in 1915. The lowest figure in 1916 was 55 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents and the highest 77 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per oz. The enhanced price of this metal is due chiefly to the great demand from belligerent countries where silver is being coined at an increased rate to replace gold withdrawn from circulation. During the year 1916 dividends and bonuses declared by silver mines at Cobalt amounted to \$5,519,258, making the total return to shareholders \$65,290,170 since the beginning of operations there in 1903. Table 62 shows the total production and value of silver at the Cobalt Camp each year from 1904 to 1916. The total for the 13 years is 255,189,988 oz. of the value of \$135,748,876. Gold mines at Porcupine and Kirkland Lake paid dividends in 1916 amounting to \$4,431,750, and the total gold mine dividends from these two camps to the end of 1916 amounted to \$9,786,625. The production of nickel and copper matte again shows a large increase, the figures for 1916 being 80,010 tons as compared with 67,703 tons in 1915 and 47,150 tons in the pre-war year of 1913. In 1916 the nickel and copper contents of the matte were 41,299 and 22,430 tons, respectively, with total values of \$20,649,279 for nickel and \$8,332,153 for copper. The total of these two values, viz. \$28,981,432, exceeds that of any other item and constitutes about 44 p.c. of the total value of the mineral production of the province.

Alberta.—The Mines Branch of the Department of Public Works reports that the total production of coal in Alberta during the year 1916 was 4,648,604 short tons, as compared with 3,434,891 tons in 1915. The production in 1916 of coke was 41,950 tons, as compared with 23,826 in 1915, and of briquettes 107,959 tons, as compared with 83,180 tons. Of natural gas the consumption in the province during 1916 was, according to the Mines Department of the Dominion Government, 6,818,131,000 cubic feet, as compared with 4,481,947,000 cubic feet in 1915.

British Columbia.—According to the Annual Report for 1916 of the Provincial Mineralogist, the total value of the mineral production of British Columbia from 1852 to 1916 was \$558,560,715, distributed between the different mineral products as follows: Placer gold \$74,620,103; lode gold \$91,350,784; silver \$41,358,012; lead \$36,415,124; copper \$114,559,364; zinc \$7,212,759; coal and coke \$165,829,315; other metals and building stone \$27,215,254. Table 63 shows the value of the total mineral production of the province from 1852 to 1916, inclusive. The value of the total mineral production for the calendar year 1916 was \$42,290,462, as compared with \$29,477,508 in 1915, an increase of \$12,842,954, or nearly 44 p.c., and an increase over that of the previous record year, 1912, of \$9,849,662, or 30.3 p.c. The principal mineral