

The silver production of Canada is chiefly credited to the rich silver-cobalt ores of northern Ontario and the silver-lead mines of British Columbia. The phenomenal development of the silver district of Cobalt and Gowganda placed the region in the first position among the silver camps of the world. An important addition to the output is contributed by the gold-copper ores of British Columbia. A certain amount was also produced until recently by the copper-sulphur ores of Quebec. The Yukon has been a steady producer of silver since 1899; its total output until December, 1922, was reported as 3,822,187 oz.

Ontario.—Cobalt.—The silver-bearing veins of Cobalt, lying about 100 miles north of North Bay, were discovered in 1903. The maximum production of the camp was reached in 1911, when 31,507,791 oz. were reported. The output dropped to 8,279,320 oz. in 1921. The tonnage of ores shipped in 1923 from the mines of the camp for treatment was 150,272, with a silver content of 7,514,871 fine oz. Most of the ore in the Cobalt area has come from veins or parts of veins that originally lay beneath the diabase sill or in the footwall. Merchantable ore has not been found at as great a distance beneath the sill as above it and unfortunately, little of the hanging wall remains, erosive agencies having removed it together with much of the sill and the footwall. The exploration of the lower contact of the diabase sill, undertaken by the Colonial and Coniagas companies in 1923, may have important results, since the sill extends over a large area.

Gowganda.—Silver was discovered in 1908 near Miller, Calcite and Gowganda lakes in the vicinity of the village of Gowganda, 56 miles to the northwest of Cobalt. The greatest production was in 1917, when 1,064,635 oz. were reported, and the total quantities shipped from 1908 to 1920 were 5,877,592 oz. The shipment of ore from Gowganda and Elk Lake in 1923 was 73 tons with silver values of 160,328 fine oz. The production of silver in the Gowganda area has been chiefly from veins in the diabase and, as far as can be judged at present, mostly from the upper part of the sill where it has been exposed by erosion of the overlying rocks, and also where it dips gently under the Keewatin rocks as at the Miller Lake O'Brien mine.

South Lorrain.—The success of the Keeley mine, which is now being developed by an English company, has tended to renew general interest in South Lorrain. The area first attracted attention in 1907, when native silver was discovered on a claim since known as the Keeley mine, and the Wettlaufer in a few years produced more than 3,000,000 oz. of silver. The camp shipped in 1923, 2,012 tons of ore with a silver content of 3,000,116 fine oz.

British Columbia.—Until recently, about 75 p.c. of the metal produced in the province came from the silver-lead-zinc ores of the East and West Kootenay districts. The remainder was chiefly derived from the copper-gold ores of the Rossland, Boundary and Southern Coast districts, as well as from the Premier gold mine, near Stewart and the Dolly Varden silver mine at Alice Arm. The Slocan division was by far the largest producer of silver in British Columbia from 1913 to 1920, accounting for nearly 47 p.c. of the total shipments. The total silver yield of the Premier mine in 1921 was 1,200,000 oz., which was increased to more than 4,000,000 oz. in 1922, while the Dolly Varden mine produced 831,638 oz. in 1920 and 45,647 oz. in the following year.

Yukon Territory.—Production in the Yukon has been obtained chiefly from the gold bullion won by the mining of alluvial deposits. Shipments of high grade silver-lead ores from the Silver King property in the Mayo district accounted for the increase of production from lode mines in 1915 to 1918. The output of the Keno Hill mine of the same district swelled the production in 1921, 1922 and 1923.