

\$17,580,455 in 1910, as a result of the discovery of the rich ores of the Cobalt district. Since then there has been a falling-off in quantity, but owing to the higher price of the metal, the value of the annual production increased to a maximum of \$20,693,704 in 1918. In spite of this falling-off in output, Canada still retains its place as the third largest producer of silver in the world, ranking after Mexico and the United States.

The silver production of Canada is chiefly credited to the rich silver-cobalt ores of Northern Ontario, the copper-gold-silver and the silver-lead-zinc ores of British Columbia, and the silver-lead ores of the Yukon Territory. A certain amount also occurs with the gold ores of Northern Ontario and the nickel ores of the Sudbury district.

Ontario.—The production of silver in Ontario in 1925 was 10,529,131 fine oz., valued at \$7,271,944, as against 11,272,567 fine oz., valued at \$7,527,933, in 1924. The total for 1925 included (a) 6,079,142 oz. bullion made in the reduction works of the Cobalt district, or 57.6 p.c. of the total Ontario production, (b) 2,813,071 oz., or 26.8 p.c., recovered by the smelters of Southern Ontario, (c) 315,071 oz., or 3.0 p.c., contained in gold bullion and nuggets sold for exhibition purposes and in products from nickel refineries; the balance of 1,321,847 oz., or 12.6 p.c., was estimated as recoverable from Ontario ores, slags and matte treated in the United States and Europe. The corresponding figures for the year 1924 were (a) 5,577,875 fine oz., or 49.6 p.c., (b) 4,309,595 oz., or 38.2 p.c., (c) 282,208 oz., or 2.4 p.c., and (d) 1,102,889 oz., or 9.8 p.c. As indicated above, practically the whole of the Ontario silver production was derived from the rich silver-bearing ores of the Cobalt district, but small quantities are obtained from the products of the nickel refineries and from gold bullion.

The Cobalt camp was discovered in 1903, when the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario railway was being built from North Bay to the head of lake Timiskaming. This was at Long lake, subsequently christened "Cobalt lake," and the surrounding area became known as the Cobalt silver camp.

From 1904 to 1911 the output of silver increased rapidly year by year. In 1911 the province of Ontario reported a production from that camp of 31,507,791¹ fine oz., the value of which was \$15,953,847. In 1912 the output was nearly as great, being 30,243,859¹ fine oz., but prices had gone up and the value was greater, namely \$17,408,935. Since that time the production has been declining, but the life of the camp has been prolonged by the finding of "blind" veins and by improvements in the methods of extraction which have permitted the working of ores of a grade too low for profit by the former methods.

The Gowganda camp, which lies about 55 miles northwest of Cobalt, has been the source of much high-grade silver ore, mainly from the Miller Lake-O'Brien and Castle-Tretheway mines. This section has been more or less handicapped by its distance from the railway and lack of facilities for transportation. A good wagon road has now been completed from the railway at Elk Lake, on a branch line of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario railway. In addition a hydro-electric power transmission line has been extended from Elk Lake to Gowganda. With these added facilities a number of mines in the camp are enlarging their operations. The history of the South Lorrain camp, which lies about 18 miles to the southeast of Cobalt, on the shore of lake Timiskaming, is characteristic. It was worked for some time and

¹These figures are taken from reports of the Ontario Department of Mines, by which silver production was until recent years computed on a different basis from that used for Table 20 following.