

development of the silver-lead deposits of British Columbia, and in 1896 a production of over \$2,000,000 was recorded. From that year until 1905 the production varied between \$2,000,000 and \$3,500,000, rising rapidly during the next 5 years to \$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 in 1926 retained its place as the third largest producer of silver in the world, ranking after Mexico and the United States and followed fairly closely by Peru.

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 1926 was 9,274,965 fine oz., valued at \$5,760,402, as against 10,529,131 fine oz., valued at \$7,271,944, in 1925. The total for 1926 included (a) 2,926,733 oz. bullion made in the reduction works of the Cobalt district, or 31.5 p.c. of the total Ontario production, (b) 4,890,586 oz., or 52.8 p.c., recovered by the smelters of Southern Ontario, (c) 316,493 oz., or 3.4 p.c. contained in gold bullion and nuggets sold for exhibition purposes and in products from nickel refineries; the balance of 1,141,153 oz., or 12.3 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 1925 were (a) 6,079,142 fine oz., or 57.6 p.c., (b) 2,813,071 oz., or 26.8 p.c., (c) 315,071 oz., or 3.0 p.c., and (d) 1,321,847 oz., or 12.6 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 31,507,791<sup>1</sup> fine oz., the value of which was \$15,953,847. In 1912 the output was nearly as great, being 30,243,859<sup>1</sup> 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

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