

CHAPTER XV.—MINES AND MINERALS*

CONSPPECTUS

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Note.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

A short historical outline of the development of the mineral industry in Canada is given at pp. 309-310 of the 1939 Year Book and a special article on the Development of Canada's Mineral Resources in Relation to the War Effort, so far as that development had taken place by the middle of 1940, appears at pp. 289-309 of the 1940 edition. An article on the Outlook for the Mineral Industry in Relation to the Economic Development of Canada is given at pp. 302-314 of the 1946 edition.

THE IRON-ORE RESOURCES OF THE QUEBEC-LABRADOR REGION†

Abstract

The iron-ore position in Canada changed radically during the last decade. There are now three well-established iron mines, two in Ontario and one in Newfoundland. A vast new ore field is under development in Labrador, the main features of which, as it stands at present, are as follows:—

- (1) A major iron-ore field has been demonstrated in the central part of the Labrador peninsula, with an initial reserve of 300,000,000 tons of high-grade ore. The general geological features indicate that a much greater tonnage will be found as surface prospecting and drilling proceed.
- (2) Operating conditions are favourable for about six months of the year. The slight overburden, good drainage and favourable hydro-electric supply will keep operating costs at a minimum.
- (3) Present agreements with the governments specify royalties and taxes that are moderate.
- (4) Railway transportation to the coast at Seven Islands has been estimated by the Labrador Mining and Exploration Company at one-half cent per ton-mile (\$1.75 per ton). Port conditions are favourable.
- (5) There will be a comparatively small market on the Atlantic coast, and a possible small market in Great Britain and Belgium. The main market is considered to be in the area centering round Pittsburgh where most of the initial 10,000,000 tons a year will have to be sold. It may be possible to ship profitably by rail to this area from the ports of Montreal and Baltimore. Construction of the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway will probably ensure a profitable market in the area now served by the Lake Superior ores.
- (6) The Labrador field is capable of augmenting the supply of Lake ores and thus prolonging the life of the natural ore mines of the Lake Superior district. It is also capable of providing a rapidly expanded supply of ore to meet an emergency—a function the Lake Superior pits have twice performed, but may not be capable of fulfilling a third time.

* Except where otherwise noted, this Chapter has been revised in the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Section, Industry and Merchandising Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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