

as against 14,723,105 gallons in 1909. Natural gas rose in value from \$1,188,179 in 1909 to \$1,491,239 in 1910. The area productive of gas is being extended so as to cover a large part of the northern shore of Lake Erie. Salt, mica, corundum, graphite, talc, arsenic, calcium carbide, etc., contributed to the non-metallic output, the total value of which was \$11,152,217.

The mineral industry in Ontario gave employment to 16,688 men, whose wages amounted to \$10,532,257.

Number of miners and amount of wages.

On October 11, at Berlin, electrical energy generated by the Niagara Falls was turned on for the first time. At the inaugural ceremonies on this occasion the button effecting connection was pressed by Sir James Whitney, premier of Ontario, assisted by the Hon. Adam Beck, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

Electrical energy in Ontario.

This installation at Berlin is the first outcome of earnest efforts put forth since the beginning of the century with a view to utilisation of electrical energy generated by the water powers of Ontario and especially by the Niagara Falls. A commission appointed by the Ontario Legislature on July 5 1905 made a series of valuable investigations which showed that the development and transmission of electrical energy from the Falls was not only practical, but that such energy could be sold at a much lower rate than was then being charged by the companies in existence. The present Hydro-Electric Power Commission, which is composed of the Hon. Adam Beck, Mr. J. S. Hendry, M.P.P., and Mr. W. K. McNaught, M.P.P., was incorporated by the Ontario Legislature on May 14 1906, its powers being revised and amplified by a subsequent act of April 20 1907. The Commission has now erected a transformer station at the Niagara Falls, and has contracted with the Ontario Power Company for a 24 hours' continuous service of power. The present arrangements of the Commission include the supply of power to 15 municipal corporations, viz., Toronto, London, Guelph, St. Thomas, Woodstock, Galt, Hamilton, Stratford, Berlin, Waterloo, Preston, St. Mary's, Ingersoll, Hespeler and New Hamburg; but eventually it is hoped to supply power from the Falls to the municipalities throughout the whole of the southwestern portion of Ontario from Kingston to the Georgian Bay and south. The northeastern portion of Ontario from North Bay to the St. Lawrence River will doubtless also in time be served by a similar system established at appropriate generating points.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

It is estimated that the average cost of the power supplied to the 15 towns mentioned will be, for a continuous 24 hours' consumption, about \$22 per h. p. per annum, as against \$60 per h. p., the price of the same energy generated by coal and steam; so that upon an estimated total average consumption of 27,350 h.-p. the difference in cost between the two systems

Cost of system.