

MINERALS.

viz., gypsum, coal and oil with natural gas. The production of gypsum was hampered by the large falling off in building operations, gypsum being made into wall plaster; and in 1915 about 72,000 tons of gypsum rock were quarried, of which 52,000 tons were exported to the United States and the balance was manufactured into about 120,000 barrels of wall plaster. For the season of 1914 the total output of gypsum was 74,762 tons. Royalties were paid in 1915 on 118,953 tons of coal, as compared with 96,577 tons in 1914. Of natural gas the production in 1915 was 305,673,200 cubic feet, of which 1,576,200 cubic feet were used by the producers for light, heat or power and 304,097,000 cubic feet were sold for distribution in Moncton and Hillsborough. The oil sold from January 1 to September 30, 1915, amounted to 27,606 gallons.

Quebec.—The Annual Report of the Quebec Superintendent of Mines shows that the value of the mineral production of the province for the calendar year 1915 amounted to \$11,465,873, as compared with \$11,732,783 in 1914 and \$13,119,811 in 1913. The falling off during the past two years is due to abnormal conditions caused by the war. Of the value of total production in 1915, viz., \$11,465,873, the sum of \$5,223,639 for mine products represents an increase of 32 p.c. and the sum of \$6,242,234 for structural materials represents a decrease of 20 p.c., as compared with 1914.

Ontario.—The preliminary Report of the Bureau of Mines, Department of Lands, Forests and Mines shows that the total value of the mineral production of Ontario in the calendar year 1915 was \$57,856,375, as compared with \$46,295,959 in 1914 and \$53,232,311 in 1913. The increase in 1915 over 1914 due largely, as explained below, to an increased valuation of nickel and copper, is 25 p.c., and the decrease in 1914, compared with 1913, was 13 p.c. The rapid growth which marked the mineral production of Ontario for a decade prior to 1914 received a severe check in 1914, owing in part to business depression, but chiefly to the outbreak of the war and the consequent disturbances in industrial and financial conditions. In 1915 there was a turn in the tide with an increase over 1914. Gold exhibits a large advance, offset to some extent by a decrease in silver production. Nickel and copper show what would in times of peace be considered abnormal increases. The demand for these metals for munition purposes has been great, and increased prices have stimulated production to the maximum capacity of the mines. Of the total value in 1915, \$47,721,180 represents the value of the metallic and \$10,135,195 the value of the non-metallic production. The principal metals are gold, silver, copper, nickel, iron and cobalt. The quantity of gold produced was 411,588 oz. of the value of \$8,501,391, as compared with 268,942 oz. of the value of \$5,529,767 in 1914. The total dividends paid by gold mining companies in Ontario to December 31, 1915, amount to over \$5,000,000. The production of silver was 23,730,839 oz., of the value of \$11,742,463, as compared with 25,217,994 oz. of the value of \$12,795,214 in 1914. In 1915 the dividends paid by Cobalt silver mines amounted to \$1,441,948, the total return to shareholders to the end of 1915 being \$59,660,912. Of nickel the production was 34,039 short tons, valued (in the matte) at \$17,019,500, as compared