Canada's Mineral Industry And Its Value to the Nation

Hon. W. A. Gordon, "the Minister from the North," Reviews the Importance of Mining in the Life of Canada. Future of Mining Industry in Canada will Exceed the Remarkable Development of the Past, Says Hon. Mr. Gordon in Radio Broadcast Last Week.

Minister of Immigration and Colonizafor over 25 years in Haileybury, "the tion, centre of the mining industry in Northern Ontario," (that descriptive phrase sounding very much like a radio announcer to Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Sudbury and some other centres); that Hon. Mr. Gordon's legal practice in the mining areas and his actual participation in the industry as director of mining companies have given him a thorough knowledge of the problems incidental to the development of the industry.

Hon. Mr. Gordon's address was in part as follows:-

"To many of my listeners who live in the urban or the fertile agricultural sections of this country, a mine is that mysterious something, shares of which, when purchased two years ago for ten cents, were to sell next day for fiftysometimes they did-but more than likely they did not.

"But those speculative issues that were bought and sold so freely do not represent the mines that make up the great mining industry of this Dominion an industry second only to agriculture in national importance,-an industry which has not merely refused

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tion and Colonization and Minister of past when most other industries were This compares most favourably with Falls, Que., which said invention pro-Mines, in the Dominion Government, curtailing activity, undertaken more dividends paid by our large transporta- mises to make very substantial savings on Thursday evening last gave a not- and larger expansion than was ever tion companies. able review of the value of Canadian attempted in any previous year. mining in the past with suggestions of "For man must have metals and mining industry based on the progress Canadian labour or industry. It is

nouncer in introducing Hon. Mr. Gor- so accustomed to them in our daily life don said he was Minister of Mines and that we are apt to forget their origin and so fail to appreciate the importance tion; that Hon. Mr. Gordon had lived of the mineral industry in our civiliza-

> "Canada's contribution to world mineral production is yearly increasing We have virtually secured control of the nickel market, supplying as we do 90 per cent. of the world's requirements. Owing largely to increased production from British Columbia and Quebec, and from the Kirkland Lake camp of Ontario, Canada will probably rank second among the gold producers of the world, the estimated production for 1930 being forty-three million dollars. Furthermore Canada contributes very substantially to the world's requirements of copper, lead and zinc, as well as of the non-metallics such as asbestos

"Yet; important as our minerals are to world industry, what I should like to impress upon you tonight is their immense importance to the industrial and economic life of this country.

"Here is an industry in which, at the end of 1929, the latest year for which industrial statistics are available, there was invested some \$850,000,000 in lands, plants, buildings and working capital. More than 95,000 men were employed in operating the mines, smelters, oil and gas wells, brick plants and quarries, their payroll for the year amounting to \$125,000,000.

"Imagine a city of almost 100,000 men with their families who must be housed, clothed and fed. Think of the enormous market such a city would provide for the manufacturers of clothing, development of properties. furniture and other commodities, as well as for the farmers and producers who supply them with food. Then for machinery and explosives, as well as fuels and chemicals for treating and refining them and the providing of these and the fabrication of the metals into finished articles in their turn afford employment for many thousands. It is of course, impossible obtain exact figures of the number of men so employed, but a comparison or value of the products of manufacturing industries classified according to origin will give some idea of the de-

—11 billion; mineral origin—11 billion; Invention Will Benefit forest origin-1 billion.

"In 1929, of the total tonnage of revenue freight carried by the railways irrespective of the distance borne, 37%

Hon. W. A. Gordon, "the Minister to recognize the begey of industrial de- year were over \$50,000,000, or about industries to other lines is the invention from the North," Minister of Immigra- pression, but has during the year just 17% of the total value of production. by Mr. Horace Freeman, of Shawinigan

power line from Abitibi Canyon to Cop- that Canadian pyrite could not in and about Sudbury to house work- invention puts an altogether different ty, coming as it did during a period of sulphur. In the past the sulphur congeneral industrial depression.

the assistance and encouragement giv- be a saving to the paper mills of \$1,- marshal characterized this verdict as en by the various Provincial Govern- 650,000.00 per year in the cost of sul- "foolish." He said that the owner of have served as a stimulus to the indus- per ton for sulphur reported. Other escape as required by the department try especially in the earlier stages of Lawrence river, with savings of \$6.00 but that this one was found unsuitable

the aid and encouragement offered to become general breaking his ores the miner must have the mining industry. The two main existence its officers have been making on to photograph. detailed studies of the rocks, minerals and ore deposits of Canada, and it has built up a world wide reputation as an organization of the highest scientific standard. The reports and maps, especially those of new mining areas. compiled by Dominion geologists are eagerly welcomed by prospectors and mining men. The work of its officers does not end with the performances of the field tasks assigned to them. They are always ready to advise operators, engineers and others interested in mining on problems relating to the de-

velociment of ore deposits. "In concluding this talk I should like to make certain observations relative to the industry.

"First-That despite almost record low price of their products, the metal mines set a new record of quantity production in a period of general industrial depression.

"Second-That this increased production was the result of normal development and not in the nature of forced expansion.

"Third-That despite increased capital invested in expansions most of the mining companies were able to show a reasonable profit. Because of this creditable performance, the Canadian mining industry has served as the principal stabilizing influence on the business structure of the country.

"And last-That with the outstanding developments just discussed in full operation and with vast areas still to be prospected, there need be little doubt as to the future of the Canadian mineral industry. Great and prosperous it has been in the past-it will in the future literally have "to poll down its barns and build greater."

DOMINION TO TAKE OVER OLD AGE PENSIONS WORK

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:-"In commenting on the rumour that the Dominion Government would probably supply all the money required for pensioners after 1930, we expressed doubts as to the method which would be adopted to keep off the pension list some whose names ought not to be there. However, it has been announced that the Dominion will still require a five per cent. contribution from the Provinces, and it is quite probable that this means that the machinery now in effect will continue. We cannot think of a better system. It would cost a large sum of money if the Dominion Government had to pay officials all over the country, and then the work could not be so well done as it is now being done. It is not likely that the municipalities will again be called upon for money for the pension fund. However, we do not yet know."

Perth Expositor: - An American paper says it is not known whether the miniature sport craze has caught on in England as much as in Anerica, but, if it has, the Britishers will no doubt be playing cricket on the hearth this win-

The Newsprint Industry

It is interesting to note how other inwas mine products and 12% was dustries are so often favourably affectmanufactures based on mine products ed by the mining industry and its affilimaking at total of close to 50%. This ated industries. In his recent broaddocs not take into consideration the cast over the radio, Hon. W. A. Gordon high tonnage of supplies shipped to the touched on the benefit of the mining mining areas, dependent to a very industry to the transportation organlarge extent on the mineral industry. | izations and the traffic, direct and in-"The value of mineral products for direct created by the mineral industries 1929 was over 315 millions. Teh divid- for the railways. Another case in point for the newsprint industry without un-"The outlook for the future of the favourably affecting any other line of the still greater probabilities in the minerals for his welfare and comfort, and expansion of the past 18 months hoped and expected that by making use future, in a broadcast from C.N.R.O., Deprive him of them and he must is most bright. Undoubtedly the Sud- of a new process for burning Canadian Ottawa, under the auspices of the Pro- shortly return to a savage state. I bury district of Ontario has witnessed pyrite ore the newsprint industry can fessional Institute. The radio an- sometimes think that we have become more activity during the past year and advantageously discontinue annual a half than has any other Canadian purchases of more than four and a half mining centre. It has been the Can- million dollars' worth of sulphur from adian practice to export the products foreign lands. In addition to the diof the copper smelters to foreign coun- rect savings to the newsprint industry tries for refining, but the erection of a and the chemical industry amounting refinery at Copper Cliff, Ontario, in to about \$1,600,000.00 as a year, the by-1930, having a capacity of some 240,- product of this process, iron ore, would 000,000 pounds of refined copper a year, supply about one-eighth of the total Canadian workmen and Canadian annual iron ore requirements of Onbusiness stand to benefit materially. A tario and Quebec. Pyrite was the comsmelter with a capacity of 5,000 tons mon source of sulphur before the disof ore a day was erected and put into covery of the great brimstone deposits operation at Copper Cliff. In the con- in the southwestern part of the United struction of plants of this nature there States. Under the methods in use beis always a considerable amount of fore Mr. Freeman perfected his new auxiliary construction carried out: For burner the cost of using the Canadian instance, it was necessary to erect a pyrite as a sulphur source was so high per Cliff, and to erect many residences utilized. Now, however, Mr. Freeman's men and officials. You can readily un- complexion on the matter. Pyrite is a derstand the importance of such activi- mineral made up largely of iron and tent has discouraged those who wished "At Montreal East the Noranda to secure iron from this source. Under Mines Limited in association with the the former costly and complicated pro-Nichols Copper Company and the Bri- cess the percentage of sulphur recovertish Metals Corporation, are erecting a ed was not sufficient to leave a good copper refinery to have a capacity of grade of iron ore. Mr. Freeman's insome 150,000,000 lbs. of refined copper vention of a special type of burner, however, alters the situation. The re-"Although most of the progress made covery of both sulphur and iron ore is by the mining and related industries much simplified and cheapened. De- municipal authorities pay strict attenwithin the last decade is due to the spite the fact that the revenue of the tion to the enforcement of the building enterprise and initiative of the prospec- railways would be increased over a half by-laws, especially when there is dan-

tors, the mining engineer, the metal- a million dollars a year for the hauling ger to life." lurgist, the capitalist and the investor, of the pyrite and sulphur, there would ments and by the Federal Government | Four. The Freeman plan has been un- the Queen's hotel had ordered a fire per ton for sulphuh reported. Other by the department and a new one had "In the Federal Government, the De- mills are testing out the plan and it to be ordered. When the department partment of Mines is responsible for would appear as if the process might confirmed the fact that the new escape

Official Laxity Blamed

Just as the official inquest into the tragedy at the Hollinger in 1928 when 39 lost their lives was held over one particular death, so last week at Cochrane the inquest into the death of Baptiste Zardo, of Kirkland Lake, one of the victims of the Queen's hotel fire at Cochrane on Dec. 29th, was made re- Paul Cohen-Portheim, a German, states presentative of the other nine deaths that the future of Great Britain "is of believed to have occurred in the fire. the greatest consequence to the whole At this point it may be noted that peo- of humanity." Unlike many of our ple in general in Cochrane appear to nationalist irreconciliables, he holds that believe that a great many more lives while the co-operation and help of the were lost than the ten officially admit- countries of the Empire are needed by ted. The public opinion in Cochrane Britain, her prosperity is essential to seems to be that the death roll will be the very existence of the other compontwo or three times the official figures, ent parts of that commonwealth; furthis idea, however, being based appar- ther, that the British Empire is the ently more on opinions rather than on champion of the world supremacy of

At the inquest last week Coroner E. Empire will also be the end of the rule R. Tucker presided and evidence was of the White Man. heard from twenty-four witnesses Chief among the witnesses was Fire Chief Caswell, who is also building inspector. After hearing considerable evidence the jury decided it had enough before it to warrant making a verdict, and the jurymen declined to adjourn to the next day. Instead, they submitted the following verdict to the coroner:-

"We, the jury, find that Baptiste Zardo came to his death by burning on the 29th day of December, 1930 when the Queen's hotel was totally destroyed by fire from unknown causes "From the evidence we find that the

Ontario fire marshal issued an order to have certain requirements completed he 2nd of November, 1930, which order was not carried out.

"On October 22 the Ontario fire marshal granted an extension of time until the 15th of January, 1931, which, under the circumstances, should not have been granted. "We also find that the municipal

authorities appear to have been negligent in their method of issuing building permits to the Queen's hotel, the plan of which was not suitable for a building of such dimensions for hotel

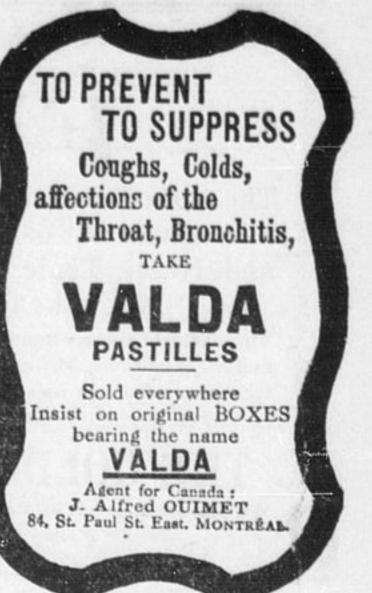
"We strongly recommend that the

Later in the week the Ontario fire had actually been ordered the extension of time was naturally granted to branches of the Department are the Mail and Empire:-We are bound to allow time for its delivery. It would Geological Survey and the Mines say that the press photographers of appear, however, that "the man on Branch. During the ninety cdd years Toronto take better pictures than most street" in Cochrane is inclined to supthat the Geological Survey has been in of the people whom they are called up- port the verdict brought in by the coroner's jury, and to believe that had the

established rules and regulations in regard to fire prevention been observed, for Cochrane Hotel Fire the tragedy might not have occurred.

Detroit News:-We expect to walk into a place any day for a pound of liver, and have the butcher wrap it in a couple of stock certificates.

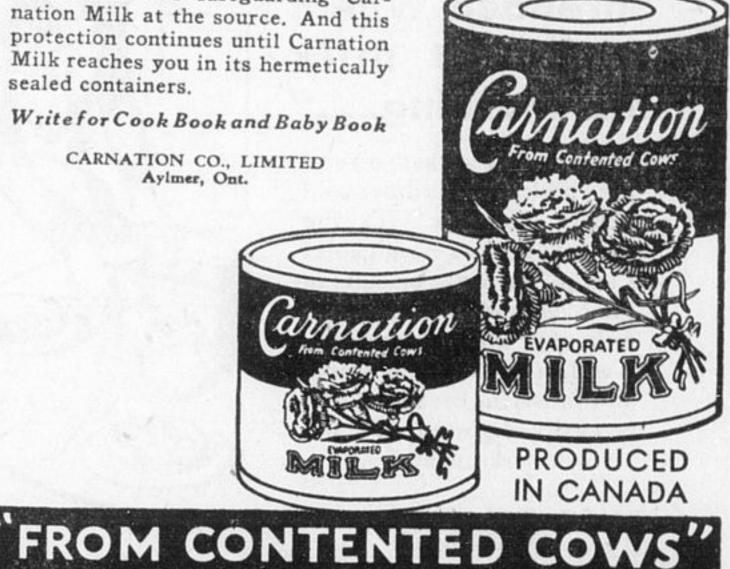
Natal (South Africa) Advertiser:-In "England, the Unknown Isle," Herr





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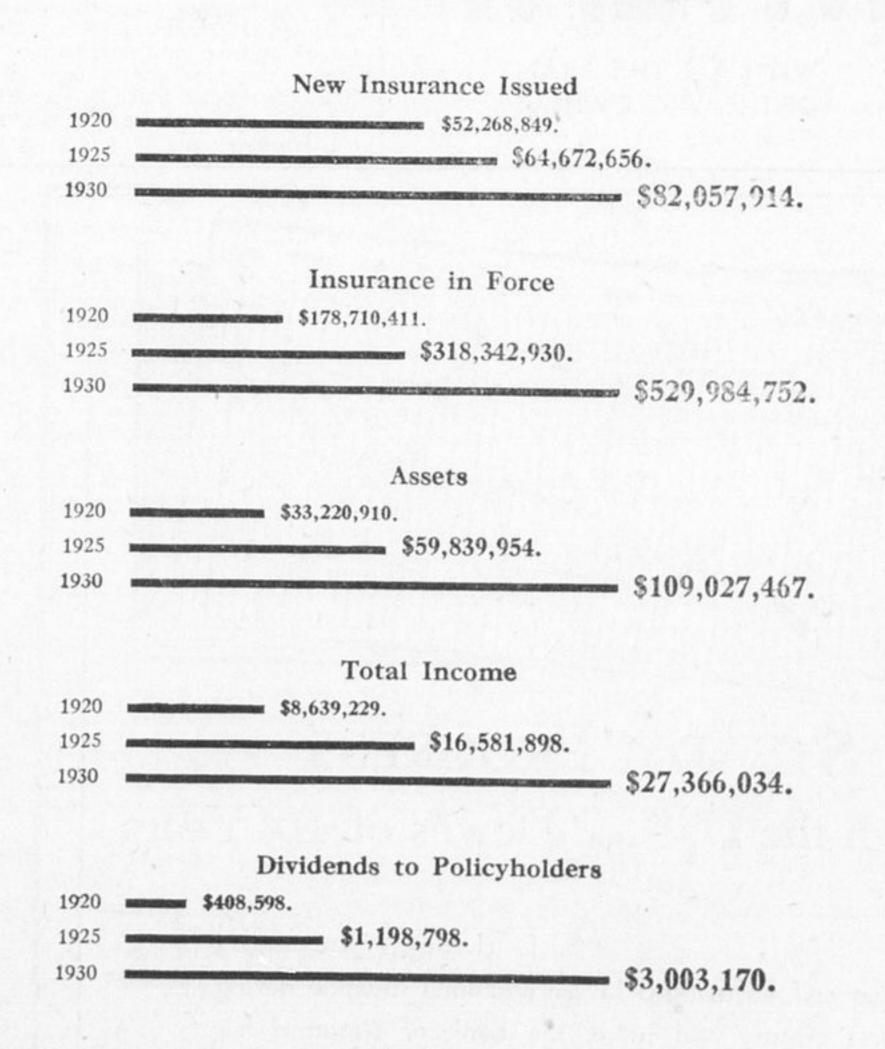


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