

Company—nickel soon displaced it. Silver Isle was the first important silver discovery in Ontario, producing, between 1868 and 1884, silver to the value of \$3,250,000. Silver in Cobalt district was disclosed in 1903 by the construction of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. Production rose to 31,507,791 ounces for 1911 since when it has fallen to 11,214,317 ounces in 1919. Gold had been discovered at Madoc in 1866 in what proved to be a small pocket. In 1909 the gold of Porcupine was found and made available by a branch of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. Production continues here, especially at the Hollinger mine, which is now the largest gold mine in the world. There are several lesser minerals, among them oil in Ontario, and gold in Quebec. Finally there is asbestos, the presence of which in the Eastern Townships has been known since 1847. No mining was undertaken, however, until 1877. From 1890 to 1895 was a period of experimentation during which a method was found of using the short fibred parts of the mineral. In 1896 there was a production of 10,892 tons, which has risen to 188,687 in 1920.

The Prairie Provinces have a very limited range of important minerals. Natural gas was discovered near Medicine Hat during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Likewise, in the C.P.R. construction days, coal was found in Alberta, and geological estimates now give the province 87 p.c. of the coal reserves of Canada. The early fields of any importance were at Canmore and Anthracite; subsequent discoveries have shown important deposits at Crowsnest, Bankhead and Drumheller. In Saskatchewan there are lignite fields at Woods mountains and Cypress hills and in Manitoba at Turtle mountain. The coal production of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1901 was 346,649 tons; in 1906 Alberta alone produced 1,385,000 tons and in 1919, 5,022,412 tons.

The mining district of British Columbia and the Yukon is a continuation of the Cordilleran range which passes through South America, Mexico and the United States and everywhere encloses great mineral wealth. In 1835 coal was discovered in British Columbia, but was practically neglected until, in 1851, mines were opened at Nanaimo, which have been worked ever since. In the late fifties gold was discovered along the Thompson river and in 1858 the famous Fraser river rush took place. In 1861 Cariboo district was reached by the prospectors, and Williams and Lightning Creeks discovered. By 1873 the Cassiar district was opened and still pushing north, prospectors entered the Yukon before 1880. Placer mining in the rich Klondike district was begun in 1894. The peak year for the Yukon was 1900 with a gold production of \$22,000,000, but as the cruder methods became less effective, production dropped to \$10,500,000 in 1904 and \$1,875,039 in 1919. Lode mining had been practically neglected during the period of the gold rushes. The mine of galena on Kootenay lake, which had been discovered by David Douglas in 1825, had been taken up in 1864 by George Hearst of California, but was soon abandoned. The real development of lode mining followed the introduction of railways such as the British