

2.—Metallic Minerals.

1.—Gold.

Canada has been a gold producing country for over 60 years. The discovery of gold in paying quantities was an epoch-making event in the history of British Columbia. In the late fifties, placer gold was discovered along the Thompson river, and in 1858 the famous Fraser river rush took place, attracting the attention of the mining world to British Columbia. The extraordinarily rich deposits of Williams and Lightning creeks in the Cariboo district were discovered in 1860, and three years later the area had a record production of placer gold valued at \$4,000,000. In the northern part of the province, the Atlin division of the Cassiar district was discovered in 1892.

The discovery of gold in the Yukon river was reported in 1869, and bar mining on the tributaries of the Yukon was conducted with increasing profit between 1881 and 1886. Ten years later rich discoveries were made in creeks of the Klondike river, a right bank tributary joining the Yukon at what is now Dawson City; and one of the greatest rushes in history was made to this locality. The richest streams in the district were Bonanza creek and its principal tributary, the Eldorado.

Gold was discovered in Nova Scotia in 1860. Two years after the discovery, gold valued at nearly \$142,000 was recovered from the quartz veins; a steady, though in recent years declining, output has been reported since that time.

Although gold was first discovered during 1866 in Hastings county, no permanent gold industry was established in Ontario until recent years. Gold has been found and worked at many points in Ontario from the Lake of the Woods in the west to the Hastings district in the east, a distance of roughly 650 miles. The gold production of the province during the last decade has increased greatly, the Porcupine area having been the principal producer since 1912.

Gold production in Canada attained its maximum in 1900, when the Yukon production reached its highest point, and 1,350,057 ounces of fine gold were produced. For the provinces the years in which the greatest yields were obtained were as follows:—Nova Scotia, 1902; Quebec, 1881; Ontario, 1922; Alberta, 1896; and British Columbia, 1913. The quantity and value of gold produced in Canada is given for 1911 and subsequent years in Tables 14 and 15.

14.—Quantity of Gold produced in Canada, by Provinces, calendar years 1911-1922.

| Years. | Nova Scotia. | Quebec. | Ontario. | Manitoba. | Alberta. | British Columbia. | Yukon Territory. | Total. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. | Oz. fine. |
| 1911..... | 7,781 | 613 | 2,062 | — | 10 | 238,496 | 224,197 | 473,159 |
| 1912..... | 4,385 | 642 | 86,523 | — | 73 | 251,815 | 268,417 | 611,885 |
| 1913..... | 2,174 | 701 | 219,801 | — | — | 297,459 | 282,838 | 802,973 |
| 1914..... | 2,904 | 1,299 | 268,264 | — | 48 | 252,730 | 247,940 | 773,178 |
| 1915..... | 6,636 | 1,099 | 406,577 | — | 195 | 273,376 | 230,173 | 918,056 |
| 1916..... | 4,562 | 1,034 | 492,481 | — | 82 | 219,633 | 212,700 | 930,492 |
| 1917..... | 2,210 | 1,511 | 423,261 | 440 | — | 133,742 | 177,667 | 738,831 |
| 1918..... | 1,176 | 1,939 | 411,976 | 1,926 | 27 | 180,163 | 102,474 | 699,681 |
| 1919..... | 850 | 1,470 | 505,739 | 724 | 24 | 167,252 | 90,705 | 766,764 |
| 1920..... | 690 | 955 | 564,995 | 781 | — | 124,868 | 72,778 | 765,007 |
| 1921..... | 439 | 635 | 708,213 | 207 | 49 | 150,792 | 65,994 | 926,329 |
| 1922..... | 1,042 | — | 1,000,340 | 156 | — | 207,370 | 54,456 | 1,263,364 |

NOTE.—For the years 1862 to 1910, see Canada Year Book, 1916-17, pp. 268 and 269.