31.—Coal Production in the Principal Countries of the World, 1913 to 1921—concluded.

(In thousands of long tons of 2,240 pounds.)

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Years.	Germany.	Belgium.	France.	Czecho-Slovakia.	Poland.	Nether-lands.	Japan.	United States.
1913	274,264	22,474	40,188	-	-	1,843	20,973	508,893
1914	241,288	16,445	26,141	-	-	1,898	21,935	458,505
1915	230,889	13,950	19,219	-	-	2,226	20,161	474,660
1916	246,606	16,592	20,968	-	-	2,613	22,534	526,873
1917	258,639	14,691	28,427	-	-	3,001	25,938	581,609
1918	256,979	13,668	25,899	-	-	4,804	27,579	605,546
1919	199,160	18,190	19,645	27,000	-	5,271	30,000	487,638
1920	239,000	21,000	34,100	30,300	6,300	5,200	28,800	576,500
1921	273,009	22,163	29,450	33,233	7,971	4,360	24,900	455,927

2.—Asbestos.

Canada produces more asbestos than any other country. The value of the annual output of asbestos has increased from less than $25,000 in 1880 to $5,552,723 in 1922, so that aside from coal, asbestos is now one of the most important non-metallic products. In 1921, the world's production of asbestos amounted to 140,000 tons; of this tonnage Canada produced 92,761 tons or 66.2 p.c., Rhodesia, 19,529 tons or 14 p.c., South Africa, 5,387 tons or 3.8 p.c., Russia, 17,138 tons and the United States, 831 tons.

Quebec.—The Eastern Townships of the province have for many years been the most productive asbestos mining area in the world. The workable deposits of chief importance are confined to a serpentine belt near Black lake and Thetford. The serpentine of this belt generally occurs as disconnected masses, but occasionally it forms mountain ridges of considerable altitude, notably in the vicinity of Black lake. The veins of asbestos traverse the serpentine in all directions, and as a rule the fibre lies at right angles to the walls of the veins. The veins vary in width from ¼ inch to ½ inch, and occasionally fibre has been obtained several inches in length. The fibre is of good quality and well adapted for spinning. Included in the Thetford and Black lake area are the East Broughton deposits, where the serpentine occurs enclosed in a highly quartzose slate, probably of pre-Cambrian age. In the Danville area, asbestos up to ½ inch in length occurs abundantly, and the whole of the serpentine is impregnated with fine short fibre, giving a first class milling material.

Open-cut methods of mining are adopted almost invariably throughout the Canadian asbestos fields. Nearly all the mining companies have installed machinery for the crushing, fibrizing, screening and grading of the mine product.