

salt-producing industries were also of importance. The group consisted of 925 active concerns, operating 5,424 wells and mines. The employees numbered 39,060, receiving salaries and wages of \$53,428,000. The capital employed was \$243,100,000 and the aggregate value of production was \$91,937,000.

Coal Mining.—There were 507 coal mines operating in Canada during 1923; of which 356 were in Alberta, 61 in Saskatchewan, 56 in Nova Scotia, 17 in New Brunswick, 16 in British Columbia and 1 in the Yukon. The total capital employed was in excess of \$143,000,000, of which \$58,100,000 was invested in Nova Scotia, \$51,600,000 in Alberta and \$28,400,000 in British Columbia. The average number of wage earners employed throughout the year was 30,300. Earnings per man-day were \$5.57, as compared with \$5.18 in the previous year, and the total wages amounted to \$42,322,000 or approximately \$7,000,000 more than the 1922 total of \$35,773,000.

Asbestos.—The asbestos industry was represented by 14 firms operating 16 mines at which there were mills for the grading of the product. The amount of capital employed was \$42,716,000, a decrease of \$1,282,000 from the total reported for the preceding year. Employment was furnished to 3,165 persons, including 144 salaried employees, and salaries and wages amounted to \$3,607,178.

Other Non-metallic Mineral Industries.—Other industries of importance from the standpoint of employment furnished were:—(1) gypsum-mining, with 1,225 employees, (2) natural gas production, with 867 employees and (3) salt-mining, with 368 employees.

3.—Structural Materials and Clay Products.

The average number of employees in the group in 1923 was 11,420, the salary and wage account being \$12,113,000. The average number on the payrolls of the cement industry increased from 1,753 in 1922 to 1,842 in 1923. The chief division of the clay products industry consisted of 216 establishments actively engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile. In the whole industry, the average yearly wage for all workers was \$1,059, there having been a total of 4,730 employees to whom \$5,011,700 was paid in salaries and wages.

3.—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. 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.