

tons from the preceding year, while the Drumbeller field also showed a large decline in the production of lignite. However, the production of coal and lignite during 1925 showed an improvement of nearly 680,000 tons over 1924. Natural gas is found over wide areas and is being put to extensive industrial use. During the past two years there has been a recurrence of activity in drilling for petroleum, attended by such success that in 1925 Alberta's production of petroleum exceeded that of all the rest of Canada. The Turner Valley field, southwest of Calgary, accounted for most of this production, but promising showings have also been obtained near Wainwright and in the southern boundary district, as well as near Fort Norman in the Northwest Territories.

There are large deposits of bituminous sands in the northern part of the province along the Athabaska river. Their economic utilization has been investigated during recent years both by the University of Alberta and by the Mines Branch of the Dominion Government.

11.—Mineral Production of Alberta, 1923-1925.

Products.	1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		\$		\$		\$
NON-METALLIC—						
Bituminous sands... tons		-	531	2,127	1,148	4,594
Coal.....	6,854,397	28,018,303	5,189,729	18,884,318	5,869,031	20,021,484
Natural gas..... Mcu. ft.	7,181,670	1,692,246	7,131,086	1,796,618	9,119,500	2,752,545
Petroleum..... brl.	1,943	8,227	844	4,135	183,491	845,394
Salt..... tons	-	-	-	-	833	8,304
STRUCTURAL MATERIALS—						
Clay products.....	-	590,565	-	540,477	-	618,860
Lime..... bush.	87,753	37,999	90,214	36,279	98,938	39,852
Stone..... tons	-	-	16,998	19,317	3,979	8,868
Cement.....	-	-	-	945,700	-	913,529
Sand and gravel.....	-	940,196	-	115,969	-	107,436
Total.....	-	31,287,536	-	22,344,940	-	25,318,866

8.—BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The mountain belt in British Columbia is rich in gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc; its streams have yielded much alluvial gold, and on its flanks are enormous beds of coal of excellent quality. Silver-lead and zinc ores have been extensively mined in the East and West Kootenays, while to the south, at Nelson and Rossland, gold and copper are the principal minerals. Farther west, in the area known as the Boundary district, low-grade copper ores, carrying gold and silver values, have been found in very large deposits. On the coast, copper ores are mined at Britannia bay and at Anyox. Recently, remarkably rich gold and silver ores have been mined near Stewart, on the Portland canal, in the northwestern coast district. Coal of excellent quality is produced by the mines of Crowneast pass, East Kootenay and Vancouver island.

Practically the entire mineral production, exclusive of placer gold, is obtained from that portion of the province near its southern boundary or along the coast, mining development outside of the territory served by transportation facilities being comparatively insignificant. An important smelting industry, producing