

Fisheries.—The first of Canada's resources to be exploited by Europeans was the fishing banks of the Atlantic coast. It is believed that for many years before the actual discovery and settlement of North America the cod-banks south of Newfoundland and east of Nova Scotia had attracted French fishermen by their abundant catches. These fishing grounds alone extend along a coast line of more than 5,000 miles, comprising an area of not less than 200,000 square miles, and are in the course of the cold Arctic current, a fact which tends greatly to improve the quality of the fish. The most important fishes of the out-shore fisheries are the cod, halibut, haddock, herring and mackerel, while the inshore and inland fisheries number the lobster, oyster, salmon, gaspereau, smelt, trout and maskinonge among their catches. Other fishing grounds include the inshore expanses of the St. Lawrence river, the Great Lakes, where whitefish and herring form perhaps the most valued catches, and innumerable other inland water areas abounding with trout, pike, bass and other game fish, Hudson bay, with a shore line of 6,000 miles, and the Pacific coast. The fisheries of British Columbia, with its coast line of 7,000 miles, have in recent years shown a rapid development, and the products of the estuarian salmon fisheries of the Fraser, Skeena and other rivers now make up two-fifths of the fish products of the Dominion, while in addition large catches of halibut, herring and whales are made off the western coast. The total value of the fisheries in the calendar year 1927 was \$49,460,600.

Minerals.—The numerous and varied mineral deposits of the Dominion form another of her most important resources. Mining is an old industry, coal having been produced in Nova Scotia and iron ore in Quebec early in the eighteenth century. The main development in the industry has taken place, however, in the twentieth century, during which there has been a great increase in the per capita consumption of minerals and mineral products.

There is a great variety of minerals, metallic and non-metallic. The value of the coal raised greatly exceeds that of any other mineral, reaching \$61,867,463 in 1927. Coal will continue for an indefinite period to hold a commanding position in the industry, for Canada's reserves of this fuel are known to be very great. The other leading non-metallic minerals are asbestos, natural gas, gypsum, petroleum and salt. Others that are produced to the annual value of between \$100,000 and \$400,000 each are feldspar, graphite, grindstones, magnesite, mica, pyrites, quartz, talc and soapstone. In quantity of asbestos produced Canada takes the lead, nearly all of the production being from Quebec. Natural gas is produced in Ontario and Alberta and to a less extent in New Brunswick. The decline in the production of petroleum in Ontario has been offset by discoveries in Alberta.

The value of the metallic minerals is much greater than that of the non-metallic minerals. Those amounting to more than \$1,000,000 per annum are:—gold, lead, nickel, copper, silver, zinc, cobalt and the platinum group of metals. The value of the gold amounted in 1927 to \$38,300,464 and greatly exceeded that of any other metal, Canada having risen since the development of the Porcupine and Kirkland Lake mines to third place among gold-producing countries. Lead and zinc mining has in recent years made a rapid growth. Ontario meets about 90 p.c. of the world's requirements in nickel, and has reserves to last for centuries. Platinum and palladium are recovered in the process of refining the copper-nickel ores. British Columbia and Ontario are the main copper-producing provinces; important copper sulphide deposits are being developed in western Quebec, and in Manitoba a large