

CHAPTER XII.—MINES AND MINERALS.

An article on the general geology of Canada, referring to the chief mineral-bearing areas of the Dominion, will be found at pp. 16-27 of the present edition of the Year Book. This is followed by an account of the chief discoveries and investigations of mineral-bearing ores in 1927, at pp. 27-35; similar articles for earlier years were published in previous editions. These articles furnish references to more detailed sources of information in the publications of the Dominion and provincial Governments, or in the scientific journals.

The Mines and Minerals chapter of the Year Book is divided into six sections:— (1) a sketch of the administration of mineral lands and mining laws, (2) a summary of general production, (3) the industrial organization of the mining industries, (4) production of the metallic minerals, (5) production of the non-metallic minerals, (6) production of clay products and structural materials.

For more detailed information on the mineral production of Canada the reader is referred to the Annual Report on the Mineral Production of Canada, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Section 1.—Mineral Lands Administration and Mining Laws.

The mineral lands of Canada, like other Crown lands, are administered by either the Dominion or the provincial Governments. The Dominion Government at the time of writing administers the mineral lands of the three Prairie Provinces, as well as those in the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block in British Columbia. All other mineral lands, including those of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and the greater part of British Columbia, are owned by the provinces. Furthermore, an agreement has been reached between the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia for the transfer of the Dominion Crown lands of British Columbia to that province. Negotiations with a similar end in view are in progress with the province of Alberta, where enormous areas of coal lands exist, and are in prospect with Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Subsection 1.—Dominion Mining Laws and Regulations.

Dominion lands to which these regulations apply are those administered by the Mining Lands Branch, Department of the Interior, within the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. Some of these regulations apply also to the Railway Belt in British Columbia and to a defined area in British Columbia. The total area administered under the Dominion mining laws exceeds 2,250,000 square miles.

The title issued for Dominion lands, the property of the Dominion Government, in the western provinces and territories of Canada, reserves to the Crown the mines and minerals which may be found on or under such lands, together with the right of operation.

Minerals on vacant Dominion lands, also on lands disposed of as above, may be acquired by lease for a fixed period, usually 21 years, renewable for further periods of like duration, on the following terms and conditions:—

Coal.—The maximum area which may be granted under lease to one applicant is 2,560 acres, and the length of the location must not exceed four times its breadth. Rental \$1 an acre per annum, and royalty on coal disposed of, 5 cents per ton. In