

Coal Mining.—There were 437 coal mines operating in Canada during 1927, of which 292 were in Alberta, 55 in Saskatchewan, 40 in Nova Scotia, 14 in New Brunswick, 35 in British Columbia and 1 in the Yukon. The total capital employed was in excess of \$146,000,000, of which \$57,000,000 was invested in Nova Scotia, \$55,000,000 in Alberta and \$28,000,000 in British Columbia. The average number of wage-earners employed throughout the year was 28,357. Earnings per man-day were \$5.03, as compared with \$4.97 in the previous year, and the total of salaries and wages amounted to \$38,955,967 or approximately \$3,100,000 more than the 1926 total of \$35,841,796.

Asbestos.—The asbestos industry was represented by 7 firms operating 13 mines at which there were mills for the grading of the product. The amount of capital employed was \$35,316,821. Employment was furnished to 2,976 persons, and salaries and wages amounted to \$3,761,192.

Other Non-Metallic Mineral Industries.—Other industries of importance from the standpoint of employment furnished were:—(1) gypsum-mining, with 1,427 employees, (2) natural gas production, with 1,342 employees, (3) petroleum production, with 781 employees, and (4) salt-mining, with 376 employees.

Subsection 3.—Structural Materials and Clay Products Industries.

The average number of employees in the group in 1927 was 20,382, the salary and wage account being \$15,662,514. The average number on the payrolls of the cement industry decreased from 2,340 in 1926 to 2,270 in 1927. The chief division of the clay products industry consisted of 167 establishments actively engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile. In the whole industry, the average yearly wage for all workers was \$999, 4,776 employees having received \$4,769,307 in salaries and wages.

Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals.

Subsection 1.—Gold.

Canada has been a gold-producing country for nearly 70 years. The discovery of gold in paying quantities was an epoch-making event in the history of British Columbia. In the late 50's, alluvial 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 production of alluvial 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.