

**Asbestos.**—The asbestos industry was represented by 7 firms operating 14 mines at which there were mills for the grading of the product. The amount of capital employed was \$33,248,957. Employment was furnished to 3,391 persons, and salaries and wages amounted to \$4,410,535.

**Other Non-Metallic Mineral Industries.**—Other industries of importance from the standpoint of employment furnished were:—(1) petroleum production, with 2,221 employees, (2) natural gas production, with 1,953 employees, (3) gypsum mining, with 987 employees, and (4) salt mining, with 424 employees.

### **Subsection 3.—Structural Materials and Clay Products Industries.**

The average number of employees in the group in 1929 was 23,897, the salary and wage account being \$18,608,687. The average number on the payrolls of the cement industry increased from 2,407 in 1928 to 2,546 in 1929. The chief division of the clay products industry consisted of 173 establishments actively engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile. In the clay products industry, the average yearly wage for all workers advanced from \$998 in 1928 to \$1,036 in 1929, as 5,530 employees received \$5,727,014 in salaries and wages.

The sand and gravel and the stone production industries have shown marked expansion during the period since 1922. From that year to 1929 production of sand and gravel increased in value from \$3,503,000 to \$7,318,000 and salaries and wages paid from \$685,000 to \$2,505,225, while stone production during the same period increased in value from \$5,990,000 to \$12,067,000 and salaries and wages in the stone industry from \$2,673,000 to \$5,460,000.

## **Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals.**

### **Subsection 1.—Gold.**

Canada has been a gold-producing country for over 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. While British Columbia still produces some gold from alluvial operations, the chief source of the gold production of the province is now lode-mining of ores in which gold is associated with other metals.

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.

Although Quebec produced gold as early as 1823, production consisted only of the small quantities recovered in the treatment of the lead and zinc ores