

In 1930, the latest year for which world figures are available, Canada stood first in the production of asbestos and nickel, second in output of gold and cobalt, third in silver, fourth in lead, copper and zinc and eleventh in the production of pig iron and coal. During that year Canada produced 87 p.c. of the world production of nickel, 66 p.c. of the asbestos, a little less than half the cobalt, 10.5 p.c. of the gold, 10.7 p.c. of the silver, 9.1 p.c. of the lead, 8.6 p.c. of the zinc, and 8.7 p.c. of the copper.

Preliminary figures of the 1931 mineral output, valued at \$227,456,365, reflected the exceptionally low prices for metals and the lessened demand for fuels, structural materials and other non-metallics. Prospecting in Canada during 1931 was chiefly confined to the more intensive exploration of areas believed to possess economic possibilities, especially of gold, due to its enhanced value in relation to other commodities. There was considerable activity in the further exploration of the mineralized areas of northwestern Quebec, and in the Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, Thunder Bay, Patricia and Matachewan districts of Ontario. In Manitoba important gold discoveries were reported at Island lake. Possibly the most interesting and important event in the year's prospecting activities was the announcement that high-grade native silver had been discovered in association with pitchblende (radium-bearing ore), smaltite (cobalt-bearing ore) and other valuable minerals in veins occurring at Echo bay at the northeast corner of Great Bear lake, N.W.T. There was also further exploration of recent copper discoveries in the same general region. Placer prospecting in British Columbia experienced a distinct revival.

While a number of properties producing copper, lead and zinc were idle as a result of the low prices of these metals, production of copper concentrates commenced at the Sherritt-Gordon mine in Manitoba. Completion of extensive mining and metallurgical developments in the Sudbury field has placed the nickel-mining industry in a position where it can respond immediately to any increased demand for either nickel or copper.

### Subsection 1.—General Statistics of Mineral Production.

In Table 1 will be found the total values of the minerals produced in Canada in each year since 1886, while Table 2 gives the details of the mineral production of 1929 and 1930, with the percentage of increase or decrease in the latter year.

#### 1.—Value of Mineral Production in Canada, calendar years 1886-1931.

Calendar Year.	Total Value.	Value per capita.	Calendar Year.	Total Value.	Value per capita.	Calendar Year.	Total Value.	Value per capita.
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
1886.....	10,221,255	2.23	1901.....	65,797,911	12.16	1916.....	177,201,534	22.05
1887.....	10,321,331	2.23	1902.....	63,231,836	11.36	1917.....	189,646,821	23.18
1888.....	12,518,894	2.67	1903.....	61,740,513	10.83	1918.....	211,301,897	25.36
1889.....	14,013,113	2.96	1904.....	60,082,771	10.27	1919.....	176,896,390	20.84
1890.....	16,763,353	3.50	1905.....	69,078,999	11.49	1920.....	227,859,665	26.40
1891.....	18,976,616	3.92	1906.....	79,286,697	12.81	1921.....	171,923,342	19.56
1892.....	16,623,415	3.39	1907.....	86,865,202	13.75	1922 <sup>1</sup> .....	184,287,242	20.66
1893.....	20,035,062	4.04	1908.....	85,557,101	13.16	1923 <sup>2</sup> .....	214,079,331	23.78
1894.....	19,931,158	3.98	1909.....	91,831,441	13.70	1924 <sup>2</sup> .....	209,583,406	22.92
1895.....	20,505,917	4.05	1910.....	106,823,823	15.44	1925 <sup>2</sup> .....	226,583,333	24.38
1896.....	22,474,260	4.38	1911.....	103,220,994	14.32	1926 <sup>2</sup> .....	240,457,123	25.44
1897.....	25,485,023	5.49	1912.....	135,048,296	18.32	1927 <sup>2</sup> .....	247,356,695	25.67
1898.....	38,412,431	7.32	1913.....	145,634,812	19.35	1928 <sup>2</sup> .....	274,989,487	27.87
1899.....	49,234,005	9.27	1914.....	128,863,075	16.75	1929 <sup>2</sup> .....	310,850,246	31.00
1900.....	64,420,877	12.04	1915.....	137,109,171	17.44	1930 <sup>2</sup> .....	279,873,578	27.42
						1931.....	227,456,365 <sup>1</sup>	21.92

<sup>1</sup> Subject to revision. <sup>2</sup> The per capita figures for the years 1922-30 inclusive are worked out on the basis of the revised population estimates (see p. 110).