

CHAPTER XII.—MINES AND MINERALS.¹

An article on the geology of Canada, referring to the chief mineral-bearing areas of the Dominion, will be found at pp. 18-28 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 1931, at pp. 29-37; 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 and 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 statistics of the mining industries, (4) production of metallic minerals, (5) production of 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 various reports issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Statistics of Mines and Minerals.—The compilation and publication of statistics of the production of mines and minerals in the Dominion is carried out by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which works in close co-operation with the Mines Departments of the various Provincial Governments, collecting the data in collaboration with these Departments. Questionnaires sent out to the mining producers are designed to meet the requirements of both the Dominion and the provincial authorities, thus eliminating duplication of labour.

Annual and Monthly Statistical Reports.—Detailed statistics of the mineral production of the Dominion are published annually in a comprehensive report of over 300 pages which includes tables of Dominion-wide production, capital invested in the mining industry, number of employees, salaries and wages, fuel and machinery used in mining, together with tables showing imports and exports of minerals and their products, and a résumé of general mining conditions. The latest of these reports available for distribution at the time of writing covers the calendar year 1931 and may be obtained from the Dominion Statistician on request.

A summarized report on mineral production giving fairly detailed preliminary figures for the preceding calendar year is issued about March 15 of each year, and the salient points are reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy held in the first week of April. (The 1932 report is now available.) Further, a bulletin issued each year at the beginning of January gives the most accurate estimate then possible for the mineral production of the year just closed. In addition to the above, annual bulletins giving the detailed production of each mineral are issued as soon as the final figures become available in each case.

Monthly statistics of the physical production of 16 of the leading minerals of Canada have been compiled for the past four years and are published separately in monthly bulletins. These figures indicate the current trend of activity in mining operations.

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