

Placer Claims.—Placer claims are of 3 classes, as follows: (1) Creek diggings—250 feet long and 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on each side of the stream; (2) Bar diggings—250 feet square on a bar covered at high water, or a strip 250 feet long at high water, extending between high-water mark and extreme low-water mark; (3) Dry diggings, over which water never extends—250 feet square.

A placer claim must be worked by the owner, or someone on his behalf, continuously during working hours. Discontinuance for 72 hours, except in close season, lay-over, leave of absence, sickness or other reason satisfactory to the Gold Commissioner is deemed abandonment. To hold a placer claim more than one year, it must be again recorded before expiration of the year.

Placer Leases.—Leases of unoccupied Crown lands may be granted by the Gold Commissioner of the district. Placer leases are of 4 classes, as follows:—(1) Creek lease—on rivers or on abandoned or unworked creeks, half a mile in length; annual rental, \$37.50; annual expenditure required on development, \$250. (2) Bench lease—80 acres; annual rental, \$25; annual expenditure required on development, \$250. (3) Dredging lease—on the bed of any river below low-water mark, 5 miles; annual rental, \$25 per mile; annual expenditure required on development, \$1,000 per mile; the value of any new plant or machinery employed to count as money expended in development. (4) Precious stone diggings—10 acres.

Section 2.—Summary of General Production.

Since 1886, the first year that the Geological Survey issued complete returns of mineral production, Canada has shown a fairly steady growth in mineral output. In that year the per capita production was only \$2.23; in 1901, five years after the Yukon discoveries, production totalled \$12.16 per capita, but there was a falling-off from 1902 to 1904. Thereafter, owing to the discovery of silver in the Cobalt area, the development of the copper and nickel ores of the Sudbury district, the opening up of the gold mines of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake in Ontario, the improvements in metallurgical practice which led to the recoveries of large quantities of lead and zinc from British Columbian ores, and the discoveries and developments in Quebec and Manitoba, the per capita production rose to \$31 in 1929, although owing to the current depression it has since dropped to \$17.35 in 1932.

In 1931, the latest year for which the world figures of the Imperial Institute are available, Canada stood first in the production of asbestos and nickel, second in the output of gold, zinc and cobalt, third in silver and copper, fourth in lead, and eleventh in the production of coal. During that year Canada produced 83 p.c. of the world production of nickel, 57 p.c. of the asbestos, 33.4 p.c. of the cobalt, 15.5 p.c. of the zinc, 12.6 p.c. of the gold, 10.6 p.c. of the silver, 9.6 p.c. of the copper and 8.9 p.c. of the lead.

The annual preliminary survey of the Canadian mining industry shows a total estimated valuation of \$182,320,150 for 1932; this is a decrease of 20 p.c. from 1931, reflecting the prolonged and intensified economic depression that has spread over the world in the last three years. Producers of base metals and structural materials were adversely affected by record-breaking low prices for metals combined with an extraordinary decline of industrial activities.

In contrast to the severe reductions in most mineral outputs was the pronounced increase of gold from Canadian mines. The 1932 gold production constituted a new high record for the Dominion and for the third consecutive year established Canada in the position of the second gold-producing country in the