

## Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals.

### Subsection 1.—Gold.

Canada has been a gold-producing country for over 75 years. During the last half of the 19th century production was chiefly the result of placer operations in British Columbia and Yukon, while during the present century there has been a rapid growth of production from lode mining both of auriferous quartz and of gold in association with other metals.

In 1931 the value of gold produced in Canada exceeded that of coal for the first time. Under the influence of the current depression, the production of coal has declined in quantity and value, while the general decline in commodity prices and the heavy discount to which the Canadian dollar has been subjected in New York, have reacted to the immediate benefit of Canadian gold producers. Thus gold ranked first among the minerals in 1931 and 1932. Favourable results from prospecting and exploration, new mines coming into production, and plans for expansion in a number of producing mines, give every prospect for a continued increase in gold production.

Prior to 1924 gold production in Canada attained a maximum in 1900, when the Yukon production reached its highest point and 1,350,057 fine oz. of gold were produced. For the provinces and Yukon, the years in which the greatest yields were obtained were: Nova Scotia, 1902; Quebec, 1932; Ontario, 1932; Manitoba, 1932; Alberta, 1896; British Columbia, 1913 and Yukon, 1900. The quantities and values of gold produced in Canada are given by provinces for 1911 and subsequent years in Tables 8 and 9, 1932 establishing a new record of production with 3,050,581 fine oz.

**British Columbia.**—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 prospected in 1892. Then the introduction of lode mining resulted in a rapidly increasing production until 1902, when previous records were surpassed by an output of more than 288,000 fine oz. Except for the maximum output of 297,459 fine oz. in 1913, the record of 1902 has not since been equalled. Though the bulk of the gold obtained in the Cordilleran region has been derived from the placer deposits of the central portion of the region from Yukon at the north almost to the International Boundary on the south, yet a large amount, averaging 178,039 fine oz. between 1913 and 1921, was obtained by lode mining, largely of the copper-gold ores of the Rosslund and Yale boundary districts. The copper concentrates of the Britannia mine also contain gold, as does the blister copper made at Anyox. The output of gold in British Columbia has been in part maintained by the successful operation of the Premier mine on the Portland canal. The Pioneer gold mine in the Lillooet district has reported a substantial production of gold during the past three years and production is expanding. Placer prospecting in British Columbia experienced a distinct revival during the 1931 and 1932 seasons and resulted in pronounced activity, especially in the Stikine, Liard, Cariboo and Atlin districts.