

Subsection 4.—Lead.

Lead is obtained in Canada largely from the deposits of British Columbia. From 88,665 lb. in 1891 the production advanced to over 39,000,000 lb. in 1897. Owing to the low price of silver in 1898 and labour troubles in the Slocan in 1899, the output in the latter year fell to 21,900,000 lb., but rose to 63,200,000 lb. in 1900. The output fell to 18,100,000 lb. in 1903, owing to the condition of the market affecting the production of the low-grade silver-lead ores of the East Kootenay district. An Act of October, 1903, provided for the payment of bounties on lead contained in lead-bearing ores mined in Canada and, as a direct result of the bounty, the output increased to 56,900,000 lb. in 1905 but fell off gradually to 23,800,000 lb. in 1911. A marked increase has since been experienced, a record total of 337,946,688 lb. being reached in 1928, while production in 1929 and 1930 continued at nearly the same level. Owing to the very low price to which the metal declined, production fell off to 255,947,378 lb. in 1932 and 266,475,191 lb. in 1933. The official estimate of production in 1934 was 342,811,000 lb., a new high record.

British Columbia.—In the East and West Kootenay districts there are many important mines, the principal of which is the Sullivan lead-zinc mine near Kimberley. The ore averages about 11 p.c. lead, 7 p.c. zinc and 5 ounces of silver to the ton. The successful solving by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of the metallurgical problems connected with the separation and reduction of these lead-zinc ores accounts to a considerable extent for the rapid growth in lead production during recent years. As a result of the low prices prevailing since 1930 for lead, zinc, and silver, many of the small silver-lead mines of the Slocan have remained idle, while the Monarch mine at Field re-opened in 1934 after having been closed down for some time.

Other Provinces.—Occurrences of lead have been found in Gaspé peninsula and in the Rouyn district of Quebec, but the only production of importance has come from the Notre-Dame-des-Anges district, Portneuf Co., where the Tetrault mine was a consistent producer of lead and zinc concentrates until 1930, when operations were suspended owing to the low prices of these metals. Lead mining in Ontario has been intimately associated with the successful operations of the Galetta mine and smelter, which closed down in the summer of 1931 owing to the low price of lead. Recent discoveries in the Sudbury Basin area have disclosed bodies of lead-zinc ore. These properties were under development but operations have been suspended and very little production has come from them as yet. An important production of lead came in recent years from the silver-lead ores of the Mayo district of Yukon. These operations are described under "silver" on pp. 401-402 of this chapter.