

Placer.—Claims are of three classes: (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 closed 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 the expiration of the year.

Placer leases of unoccupied Crown lands, approximately 80 acres in extent, may be granted by the Gold Commissioner of the district, the annual rental for same being \$30 and the annual expenditure required in development work \$250. Dredging leases on rivers below low-water mark also are granted for 5 miles; the annual rental for same is \$25 per mile and the annual expenditure required in development is \$1,000 per mile, the value of any new plant or machinery employed to count as development. Leases of precious stone diggings, 10 acres in extent, may also be obtained.

General Minerals.—The terms of the mining laws are favourable to the prospector and operator, fees and rentals being small. Prospector's licence or "free miners' certificate"—applicant must be over the age of 18; fee for individual \$5 per annum; for a joint stock company \$50 or \$100 per annum depending on capitalization. Mineral claims must not exceed 1,500 feet square (51.65 acres); work, amounting to \$500 which may be spread over five years, required to obtain a Crown grant, while surface rights are obtainable at a figure in no case exceeding \$5 per acre.

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-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 world-wide economic depression it dropped to \$18.20 in 1932, but has risen again to \$25.67 in 1934 and about \$28.33 in 1935, with the mineral industry leading in the general improvement in economic conditions.

In 1934, the latest year for which comprehensive world figures of the Imperial Institute are available, Canada stood first in the production of asbestos, nickel and the platinum metals, second in zinc and radium, third in copper, gold, silver and cobalt, fourth in lead, and tenth in coal. During that year, Canada produced approximately 81 p.c. of the world production of nickel, 69 p.c. of the asbestos, 13 p.c. of the copper, 12 p.c. of the lead, 11 p.c. of the gold, 10 p.c. of the zinc and 9 p.c. of the silver.

The Preliminary Report on the mineral production of Canada, based on a special survey of the industry by the Bureau and released on Mar. 10, 1936, shows a