

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 from 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. Gold production in Canada attained its earlier maximum in 1900, when the Yukon production reached its highest point and 1,350,057 fine oz. of gold were produced. The quantities and values of gold produced in Canada are given by provinces for 1911 and subsequent years in Tables 8 and 9. The official estimate for 1936 is 3,735,305 fine oz.

In 1931 the value of gold produced in Canada exceeded that of coal for the first time. Producers of gold have benefited in recent years not only from the general decline in the prices of other commodities, with a consequent reduction in their operating costs, as well as an increase in the purchasing power of their product, but also from the rise in the price of gold in the world market. Under the stimulus of higher prices, prospecting for gold has been more active during recent years than ever before. Favourable results from these activities, with new mines coming into production and expansion in numerous producing mines, give every prospect for a continued increase in gold production.

Ontario.—Although gold was first discovered in 1866 in Hastings County and was later found and worked at points from there to the lake of the Woods in the west, a distance of roughly 900 miles, no permanent gold-mining industry was established until 1911, when the Porcupine Camp was opened up. Soon afterwards the discovery of gold in the Kirkland Lake area, on what is now the Wright-Hargreaves mine, led to the development of this second camp. The Lake Shore mine in this camp has latterly had a larger production than that of any other Canadian gold mine. Active prospecting and development have been carried on during recent years in a number of Precambrian areas in Ontario. In addition to the older camps of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, producing mines are now established in the Michipicoten district, in the district east of lake Nipigon, at Matachewan and in the district of Patricia and other northwestern parts of the province.

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. The copper-gold ores of the Rossland and Yale Boundary districts, of the Britannia mine on Howe sound, of mines in the Anox section and the ores of the Premier mine on the Portland canal were largely responsible for the gold from lode mining which reached its highest pre-war peak with 297,459 fine oz. in 1913. As a result of the higher price of gold, production in the province has recovered from 160,069 fine oz. in 1931 to 391,633 fine oz. in 1935 and the estimate for 1936 is 449,126 fine oz. The mines of the Bridge River district, including the Pioneer, Bralorne and others, are contributing to this current expansion. Placer prospecting in British Columbia has experienced a distinct revival since 1932, especially in the Stikine, Liard, Cariboo, and Atlin districts.