

## Subsection 2.—Silver.

Although no official statistics of the production of silver were published prior to 1887, the annual reports of the operating companies showed that from 1869 to 1885 about 4,000,000 oz. of silver, with a probable value of \$4,800,000, were produced in the Port Arthur district in Ontario. The development of the silver-lead deposits of British Columbia largely accounted for an increase to a production worth over \$2,000,000 in 1896. From 1896 to 1905 annual production varied in value between \$2,000,000 and \$3,500,000, rising rapidly during the next five years to 32,869,264 fine oz. valued at \$17,580,455 in 1910, as a result of the discovery of the rich ores of the Cobalt district. Since then there has been a falling-off in quantity, but owing to the higher price of the metal the value of the annual production increased to a maximum of \$20,693,704 in 1918. The post-war depression and the decline in the value of silver caused a low value of production in 1921, but the industry recovered, and in 1930 production amounted to 26,443,823 fine oz. Partly owing to the further decline in the price of silver since that time production has decreased, amounting to only 16,618,558 fine oz. in 1935.

The silver production of Canada is chiefly credited to the silver-lead-zinc ores of British Columbia, the silver-cobalt ores of northern Ontario and the silver-lead ores exported from Yukon. An appreciable amount of silver also occurs in the gold ores of northern Ontario, the nickel ores of the Sudbury district, the copper-gold ores of Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia and the pitchblende ones of the Northwest Territories. Thus in Canada silver is produced chiefly in combination with other metals.

Since 1926 British Columbia has been the chief silver-producing province. Small amounts are recovered from alluvial gold and crude gold bullion, but the Sullivan and Premier mines have been responsible for the greater part of the output from this province. The Sullivan, primarily noted for its lead and zinc production, is the largest producer of silver in Canada. Silver is also recovered from the copper ores produced in British Columbia.

During 1931 much interest was created by the discovery at Echo bay, Great Bear lake, of mineral deposits in which high-grade native silver was associated with uranium- and radium-bearing ores. The first commercial production from this area occurred in 1932, when shipments were made to the Trail smelter in British Columbia. Production from this new camp has continued with shipments of silver-radium ores to the refinery at Port Hope, Ontario.

Statistics of the quantities and values of silver produced in Canada are given for the years since 1911 in Table 12, while statistics of the quantities and values produced in the various provinces are given for 1911 and subsequent years in Table 13.

## 12.—Quantities and Values of Silver Produced in Canada, calendar years 1911-36.

NOTE.—For figures for the years 1887-1910, see p. 361, 1933 Year Book.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	oz. fine.	\$		oz. fine.	\$		oz. fine.	\$
1911.....	32,559,044	17,355,272	1920.....	13,330,357	13,450,330	1929.....	23,143,261	12,264,308
1912.....	31,955,560	19,440,165	1921.....	13,543,198	8,485,355	1930.....	26,443,823	10,089,376
1913.....	31,845,803	19,040,924	1922.....	18,626,439	12,576,758	1931.....	20,562,247	6,141,943
1914.....	28,449,821	15,593,631	1923.....	18,601,744	12,067,509	1932.....	18,347,907	5,811,081
1915.....	26,625,960	13,228,842	1924.....	19,736,323	13,180,113	1933.....	15,187,950	5,746,027
1916.....	25,459,741	16,717,121	1925.....	20,228,988	13,971,150	1934.....	16,415,282	7,790,840
1917.....	22,221,274	18,091,895	1926.....	22,371,924	13,894,531	1935.....	16,618,558 <sup>2</sup>	10,767,148 <sup>2</sup>
1918.....	21,383,979	20,693,704	1927.....	22,736,698	12,816,677	1936 <sup>1</sup> .....	18,231,419	8,227,840
1919.....	16,020,657	17,802,474	1928.....	21,936,407	12,761,725			

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>2</sup> Revised since the publication of the 1936 Year Book.