

War prices stimulated the production of base metals from properties already developed, but on the whole active prospecting was much curtailed during the war period. However, in the decade following the War, new discoveries were widespread and the expansion was very rapid. The aeroplane furnished a means of comparatively easy access to remote districts and the discovery of new deposits of minerals increased annually. Important discoveries of base metals were the copper-gold areas of Rouyn in northwestern Quebec, and the copper-gold-zinc ore bodies near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary. Expansion programs were carried out at nickel-copper properties in the Sudbury district of Ontario and silver-lead-zinc properties in British Columbia. New gold mines were brought to the production stage in northwestern Quebec, northwestern Ontario, and eastern Manitoba. An intrepid prospector went farther afield and uncovered silver-radium ores at the easterly end of Great Bear lake.

It should not be imagined from the brief outline given above that the successful and profitable development of mining enterprise in Canada has depended solely upon the *discovery* of the ore bodies. Even in the case of occurrences of free-milling gold ores, a long and expensive process of exploration is required before the possibilities of a property as an economic producer can be determined, and, in the majority of cases, though the original discovery may be promising, development yields disappointing results. In the case of base-metal ore-bodies, not only is the expenditure for preliminary development necessary, but also difficult problems in metallurgy are presented, requiring long periods of research and experiment for their solution before profitable production is made possible. The nickel-copper deposits of Sudbury were discovered in 1883, but production on an important scale did not come until after 1900 and the greatest expansion has occurred since the War. The great Sullivan silver-lead-zinc deposit in the Kootenay district of British Columbia was discovered in 1892, but production upon anything like the present scale did not come until after the War, when a successful method of separating the lead and zinc had been worked out.

**Statistics of Mines and Minerals.**—The compilation and publication of statistics concerning mines and minerals in the Dominion is carried out by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which works in close co-operation with the Mines Departments of the various Provincial Governments, collecting the data in collaboration with these Departments. Questionnaires sent to those engaged in mineral industries are designed to meet the requirements of both the Dominion and the provincial authorities, thus eliminating duplication of labour.

For more detailed information on the mineral production of Canada, the reader is referred to the various reports issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The more important of these are: annual preliminary reports on the mineral production of Canada; a complete, detailed, annual report on the mineral industries; monthly bulletins on the production of the 16 leading minerals; and monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on coal statistics. (See footnote to p. 335.)

The following material of this chapter is divided into six sections: (1) a sketch of the administration of mineral lands and mining laws; (2) a summary of general production; (3) the industrial statistics of the mineral industries; (4) production of metallic minerals; (5) production of non-metallic minerals; (6) production of clay products and structural materials.