

electrolytic refining of the nickel. Following the provision of facilities for the recovery and separation of these metals in England and later in Norway, Canada became the world's leading source of this group of metals.

Canada's production of platinum recorded an all-time high of 161,326 fine ounces in 1938. Refining is carried out for the most part in England, and the Allies are thus assured of a large part of the available world output. During the last four years of the War of 1914-18, the reported Canadian output averaged only 806 ounces* per year, and was almost entirely refined in the United States.

Cobalt.—While not usually listed as an essential war metal, cobalt has important war applications. It is used as an alloy in the making of high-speed cutting steels, and for making valves for aeroplane engines.

At one time the world's leading producer of cobalt, chiefly as a by-product of the production of silver in northern Ontario, Canada now ranks third, its production in 1938 amounting in terms of metal content to 229.5 tons. This production can be increased, and ample refining facilities are available for the final treatment of both domestic and imported ores.

Molybdenum.—Molybdenum is used for alloying with steel to give toughness, and is thus valuable for war purposes. There was a substantial production of molybdenite, the principal ore, in Quebec during the years 1914-18, chiefly from a deposit at Quyon on the Ottawa River, but this ceased entirely in 1929 after a period of small and intermittent operation. The Quyon deposit is now (1940) being reopened. Several other deposits have been found across the Dominion, and the more promising are under development.

Aluminium.—Canada has no known commercial deposits of bauxite, the most important ore of aluminium but, because of abundant water-power resources, has become one of the world's most important producers of that essential war metal, ranking third in 1938. Production figures are not available for publication, but the quantities exported, comprising the great bulk of the output, give a fair indication of Canada's increasing importance as a producer of aluminium. Thus the exports of 64,724 tons in 1938, were 70 p.c. higher than in 1929, and almost 500 p.c. higher than in 1918.

The productive capacity of the Canadian aluminium-producing plants is at present being substantially increased; it has been announced recently (February) that the entire output, surplus to domestic requirements, is now under contract to the British Government.

Non-Metallic War Minerals—

Coal.—Though possessing an abundance of coal reserves, Canada has always drawn a large part of its requirements from foreign sources, the highly industrialized sections of central Canada being much more convenient to the nearby deposits south of the Lower Lakes than to the domestic mines. This dependence upon foreign coal supplies has been materially lessened since the War of 1914-18, and particularly in the latest ten years, with the granting of Dominion Government assistance to enable Canadian coal to meet the competition of such foreign coals in central Canada. In addition, there has been a large diversion in foreign sources of anthracite requirements from the United States to the United Kingdom, which is of special economic significance in the present war emergency.

* See footnote 2 to the Statement on p. 302.