

Subsection 1.—Cobalt.

For almost two decades prior to 1925, the major portion of the world supply of cobalt was derived from the orebodies of the Cobalt district, which were discovered in 1903, and carry silver, cobalt, nickel, bismuth, and arsenic. Large deposits of cobalt-bearing ores occur in Africa in the Belgian Congo, Northern Rhodesia, and French Morocco, and the introduction into world markets of cobalt from these sources has increased world production while Canadian production has declined since 1925.

9.—Production of Cobalt in Canada, 1920-39.

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1904 to 1919, inclusive, will be found at p. 334 of the 1939 Year Book.

| Year. | Quantity. | Value. | Year. | Quantity. | Value. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | lb. | \$ | | lb. | \$ |
| 1920..... | 566,000 | 1,605,365 | 1930..... | 694,163 | 1,144,007 |
| 1921..... | 251,986 | 755,958 | 1931..... | 521,051 | 651,179 |
| 1922..... | 569,960 | 1,852,370 | 1932..... | 490,631 | 587,957 |
| 1923..... | 888,061 | 2,530,974 | 1933..... | 466,702 | 597,752 |
| 1924..... | 948,704 | 1,682,395 | 1934..... | 594,671 | 592,497 |
| 1925..... | 1,116,492 | 2,328,517 | 1935..... | 681,419 | 512,705 |
| 1926..... | 664,778 | 1,136,014 | 1936..... | 887,591 | 804,676 |
| 1927..... | 880,590 | 1,764,534 | 1937..... | 507,064 | 848,145 |
| 1928..... | 956,590 | 1,672,320 | 1938..... | 459,226 | 790,913 |
| 1929..... | 929,415 | 1,801,915 | 1939 ¹ | 732,561 | 1,137,599 |

¹ Preliminary figures.

Subsection 2.—Copper.

The earliest important copper-mining district in Canada was in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Operations ceased in this part of Canada during midsummer 1939. Production from the Sudbury district became important about 1889, and from the mines of British Columbia about 1896. From 1898 to 1929 British Columbia was the leading copper-producing province. Production came from the Rossland and Boundary districts, the Copper Mountain mine, and the Britannia and Hidden Creek mines along the coast. Shortly after the War of 1914-18, large development programs were carried out in connection with the Noranda and other copper-producing properties of western Quebec, with the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon properties in western Manitoba, and a very large expansion program at the nickel-copper properties of Sudbury. The effect of these developments has been the tremendous increase since 1927 in the production of copper and nickel as well as associated metals such as platinum, palladium, selenium, and tellurium. Modern and efficient mining methods and plants, and the presence in the ores of small but appreciable quantities of precious metals have made possible the profitable production of copper even under the relatively low prices prevailing since 1930.