

**Subsection 3.—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 at 1,350,057 fine oz., in 1900, when the Yukon production reached its highest point. The quantities and values of gold produced in Canada are given by provinces for 1920 and subsequent years in Tables 12 and 13. The official estimate for 1939 is 5,095,176 fine oz.

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, but also from the rise in the world price of gold itself. Under the stimulus of higher prices, prospecting for gold has been more active during recent years than ever before.

Gold is produced in Nova Scotia, at points across the Canadian Shield from Quebec to the Northwest Territories, and in the Cordilleran Region of British Columbia and Yukon. Except for comparatively small amounts obtained from alluvial workings in Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta, the production is derived from lode mining either of auriferous quartz or of other metallic ores such as copper, nickel, and zinc that carry varying amounts of gold. The principal producing districts are: western Quebec; the adjacent districts of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake in Ontario, with other smaller camps scattered across northern Ontario to the western boundary; the Rice Lake and Gods Lake areas in eastern Manitoba and the Flinflon district on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary; the Bridge River district and the new camp at Zeballos on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Developments in the Yellowknife district in the Northwest Territories have resulted in three producing mines. A property near Lake Athabaska in Saskatchewan was brought into production in 1939 after a period of extensive development. With new areas of promise being discovered, and with the reserves in older camps being extended and operations expanded, there is every prospect for the continued increase of gold mining in Canada. At the present time the leading gold producer in Canada is the Hollinger mine in the Porcupine camp, the second is the Lake Shore mine in the Kirkland Lake camp, and the third is Noranda, a copper-gold mine in western Quebec. In 1939 about 83.3 p.c. of the total production came from auriferous quartz mines; about 14.2 p.c. from mines in which gold was associated with ores of copper, nickel, zinc, etc.; and about 2.5 p.c. from alluvial operations. The number of producing auriferous quartz mines increased from 37 in 1930 to 226 in 1938.