

Subsection 4.—Iron.*

Iron ore is widely distributed in Canada and extensive deposits have been discovered from time to time, but none at present available can compete in low cost with high-grade external sources of supply.

Bog iron ore was first mined and smelted in the Province of Quebec early in the eighteenth century, and from that time until 1883 the industry was carried on almost continuously at Three Rivers. Other furnaces using local ore were operated at Radnor Forges and Drummondville, the last to shut down being the Drummondville furnace in 1911.

The large iron and steel industry of Nova Scotia draws its requirements of iron ore from the easily accessible and abundant supplies of the high-grade Wabana deposit in Newfoundland. In Ontario, also, there has been a broad development of the primary iron and steel industry largely because cheap and high-grade supplies of iron ore are readily available from the Mesabi Range of Minnesota, while coal supplies are drawn from the nearby coalfields of Pennsylvania.

16.—Iron-Ore Shipments and Production of Pig-Iron, Ferro-Alloys, and Steel Ingots and Castings, 1920-39.

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1886 to 1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 373 of the 1936 Year Book and for the years 1911 to 1919 at p. 340 of the 1939 edition.

Year.	Iron-Ore Shipments from Canadian Mines.	Production of Pig-Iron.				Production of Ferro-Alloys.	Production of Steel Ingots and Castings.
		Nova Scotia.	Quebec.	Ontario.	Canada.		
	short tons. ¹	long tons. ¹	long tons. ¹	long tons. ¹	long tons. ¹	long tons. ¹	long tons. ¹
1920.....	129,072	296,869	7,887	668,812	973,568	27,781	1,100,622
1921.....	59,509	151,343	610	441,876	593,829	22,608	667,484
1922.....	17,971	120,769	Nil	262,198	382,967	21,602	480,127
1923.....	30,752	277,654	"	602,168	879,822	41,887	881,523
1924.....	Nil	177,078	"	415,971	593,049	35,034	659,767
1925.....	"	201,795	"	368,971	570,766	25,709	752,503
1926.....	"	250,238	"	507,079	757,317	57,050	776,262
1927.....	"	249,549	"	460,148	709,697	56,230	907,945
1928.....	"	302,756	"	734,971	1,037,727	44,482	1,234,719
1929.....	"	310,801	"	769,359	1,080,160	89,116	1,378,024
1930.....	"	212,636	"	534,542	747,178	65,223	1,009,578
1931.....	"	101,393	"	318,645	420,038	46,764	672,109
1932.....	"	30,697	"	113,433	144,130	16,161	339,346
1933.....	"	118,514	"	108,803	227,317	30,133	409,979
1934.....	"	133,360	"	271,635	404,995	31,921	757,782
1935.....	"	208,002	"	391,873	599,875	56,616	941,527
1936.....	"	257,148	"	421,083	678,231	76,284	1,115,779
1937.....	"	320,318	"	578,537	898,855	82,072	1,402,882
1938.....	"	241,856	"	463,571	705,427	55,926	1,155,190
1939.....	123,598	259,136	"	496,595	755,731	75,234	1,383,262

¹ Although shipments of ore are expressed in short tons, the trade uses long tons as the quantity unit for pig-iron, etc. ² Preliminary figures.

During the summer of 1937, the Algoma Properties, Ltd., commenced rebuilding the surface equipment at the new Helen mine in the Michipicoten district, where reserves are estimated at 60,000,000 tons of iron carbonate rather high in sulphur and therefore requiring roasting to fit it for use in the blast furnace. As a result of an Act passed by the Ontario Legislature, which provides for a bounty of two cents per unit of iron content for a period of 10 years commencing Jan. 1, 1939, Canada was able to report, for the first time since 1923, a production of iron ore in 1939. In addition, development work was carried on at Steep Rock Lake near Atikokan,

* The known resources of iron ore are described briefly at p. 411 of the 1934-35 Year Book, and a sketch of the iron and steel industry of Canada is given on pp. 452-456 of the 1922-23 Year Book.