

World Production.*—The world production of lead in 1938 was about 1,780,000 long tons. The principal producers were the United States with 18·5 p.c., Australia 15·4 p.c., Mexico 15·6 p.c., and Canada 10·5 p.c.

Subsection 6.—Nickel.

The Canadian production of nickel has been derived almost entirely from the well-known nickel-copper deposits of the Sudbury district, Ontario. The ore is mined principally for its nickel and copper content but gold, silver, selenium, tellurium, and metals of the platinum group, though present in relatively small quantities, are profitably recovered in the metallurgical processes. The proved deposits of nickel ore in Canada are estimated to be sufficient to provide for world requirements for many years, while there are still large reserves undeveloped.

After the War of 1914-18, the producing companies instituted extensive researches to discover and encourage new peace-time uses for the metal. The success attending their efforts has accounted very largely for the marked increase in production. The automobile industry, electrical machinery, cooking utensils, new submarine cables, and various nickel alloys have all helped to absorb this increased production.

18.—Quantities and Values of Nickel Produced in Canada, 1920-39.

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1889 to 1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 368 of the 1929 Year Book and for the years 1911 to 1919 at p. 342 of the 1939 edition.

| Year. | Quantity. | Value. | Year. | Quantity. | Value. | Year. | Quantity. | Value. |
|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| | lb. | \$ | | lb. | \$ | | lb. | \$ |
| 1920... | 61,335,706 | 24,534,282 | 1926... | 65,714,294 | 14,374,163 | 1933... | 83,264,658 | 20,130,480 |
| 1921... | 19,293,060 | 6,752,571 | 1927... | 66,798,717 | 15,262,171 | 1934... | 128,687,340 | 32,139,425 |
| 1922... | 17,597,123 | 6,158,993 | 1928... | 96,755,578 | 22,318,907 | 1935... | 138,516,240 | 35,345,103 |
| 1923... | 62,453,843 | 18,332,077 | 1929... | 110,275,912 | 27,115,461 | 1936... | 169,739,393 | 43,876,525 |
| 1924... | 69,536,350 | 12,126,739 ¹ | 1930... | 103,768,857 | 24,455,133 | 1937... | 224,905,046 | 59,507,176 |
| 1925... | 73,857,114 | 15,946,672 | 1931... | 65,666,320 | 15,267,453 | 1938... | 210,572,738 | 53,914,494 |
| | | | 1932... | 30,327,968 | 7,179,862 | 1939 ² ... | 226,105,865 | 50,920,305 |

¹ A change in the method of computing the value of nickel production accounts for the drop in value after 1923.

² Preliminary figures.

World Production.*—The world production of nickel was about 113,000 long tons in 1938, of which output about 83·0 p.c. was Canadian in origin, while the remainder was derived chiefly from New Caledonia.

Subsection 7.—Metals of the Platinum Group.

Metals of this group produced in Canada include platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, osmium, and iridium. Platinum and palladium are of chief importance. Since the early days there has been a small recovery of platinum associated with the gold of the alluvial deposits of British Columbia and other small amounts have been recovered in the refining of base metals at Trail. However, the chief source of the platinum group in Canada is the nickel-copper ore of Sudbury, and the great increase in the output of this ore in recent years has resulted in greater production of the platinum metals, making Canada the leading producing country of the world. The next most important countries are Russia and Colombia.

* From the Imperial Institute's Statistical Summary.