

Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals

The metals of chief importance in Canada are cobalt, copper, gold, iron, lead, nickel, those of the platinum group, radium, silver, and zinc. These are dealt with in separate subsections in alphabetical order. In addition, there are a number of others produced in minor quantities, principally as by-products in the treatment of metalliferous ores, and their production during the three latest available years is shown in Table 2, while their production by provinces in 1939 appears in Table 6.

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 declined after 1925. However, since the outbreak of war in 1939, demands for the metal have stimulated renewed activity in some of the old Ontario mines, although operations are principally of a salvage or clean-up nature.

9.—Production of Cobalt in Canada, 1925-39

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1904 to 1924, inclusive, will be found at p. 334 of the 1939 Year Book. Production for 1940 is not published.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	lb.	\$		lb.	\$
1925.....	1,116,492	2,328,517	1933.....	466,702	597,752
1926.....	664,778	1,136,014	1934.....	594,671	592,497
1927.....	880,590	1,764,534	1935.....	681,419	512,705
1928.....	956,590	1,672,320	1936.....	887,591	804,676
1929.....	929,415	1,801,915	1937.....	507,064	848,145
1930.....	694,163	1,144,007	1938.....	459,226	790,913
1931.....	521,051	651,179	1939.....	732,561	1,213,454
1932.....	490,631	587,957			

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 mid-summer, 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, Waite-Amulet and other copper-producing properties of western Quebec, with the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon properties in western Manitoba, and a