

World Production.*—The world production of lead in 1938, the latest year for which complete figures are available, 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 reserves of nickel ore in Canada are estimated to be sufficient to provide for world requirements for many years, while in addition there are large indicated deposits as yet undeveloped.

After the War of 1914-18, the producing companies instituted varied 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 made possible by extensive additions to their plants and facilities. The automobile industry, electrical machinery, cooking utensils, submarine cables, and various nickel alloys have all helped to absorb this increased production.

This increased productive capacity is now available for present war purposes. Nickel is very important in war both because of its strictly military uses such as armour plate, gun forgings, gun recoil springs and bullet jackets, and for its use in industrial nickel steels for the production of war equipment.

18.—Quantities and Values of Nickel Produced in Canada, 1925-39

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 1924 at p. 342 of the 1939 edition. Production for 1940 is not published.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	lb.	\$		lb.	\$		lb.	\$
1925.....	73,857,114	15,946,672	1930....	103,768,857	24,455,133	1935....	138,516,240	35,345,103
1926.....	65,714,294	14,374,163	1931....	65,666,320	15,267,453	1936....	169,739,393	43,876,525
1927.....	66,798,717	15,262,171	1932....	30,327,968	7,179,862	1937....	224,905,046	59,507,176
1928.....	96,755,578	22,318,907	1933....	83,264,658	20,130,480	1938....	210,572,738	53,914,494
1929.....	110,275,912	27,115,461	1934....	128,687,340	32,139,425	1939....	226,105,865	50,920,305

World Production.*—The world production of nickel in 1938, the latest year for which complete figures are available, was about 113,000 long tons, 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.