

**British Columbia.—Administration.**—Department of Mines, Victoria. The Department includes all Government offices in connection with the mining industry. **Legislation.**—The Department of Mines Act and other Acts respecting mining and minerals, notably: the Mineral Act (c. 181, R.S.B.C. 1936); the Placer-Mining Act (c. 184, R.S.B.C. 1936); Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act (c. 189, R.S.B.C. 1936); the Coal-Mines Regulation Act (c. 188, R.S.B.C. 1936); and amendments to the above Acts.

## Section 2.—Summary of General Production

A special article on the Development of Canada's Mineral Resources in Relation to the Present War Effort, so far as this development had taken place by the middle of 1940, appears at pp. 298-309 of the 1940 Year Book.

The importance of mineral production as compared with other primary industries in Canada is indicated in Chapter VII while its part in the external trade of Canada is dealt with in Chapter XVI, Part II, especially Section 3, subsections 2 and 5.

### Subsection 1.—Government Control of Non-Ferrous Metals and Fuels in War-Time\*

The present War is all-embracing: it is characterized by a breadth and intensity of operations never conceived before, and accompanied by immense devastation of material resources and havoc. The economic organization of the entire world has been mobilized and drawn upon, as well as the military organizations of the nations directly involved. Canada's mining industry has been in a position to give strong support to the Allied cause from the start, although up to the commencement of the First World War, the Dominion's mineral resources had little or no relation to war requirements (with the exception perhaps, of nickel). In the four years of that war the development of domestic metal-refining facilities took place. Unfortunately, the industry was not sufficiently integrated, and effective control such as is now in force was impossible. It followed that the pressure of war demands brought high and ever-increasing prices. Nevertheless, the post-war adjustments that were necessary in the industry served only to emphasize the great strength of the Dominion's mineral position, and there was actually a continued expansion in mining operations, not only throughout the period of prosperity ended in 1929, but also in the six years of subnormal mineral prices that followed the low point of the depression in 1933.

On the strength of the experience gained and soon after the outbreak of the present War, agreements were made with the British Government for the delivery of large quantities of copper, lead and zinc at pre-war prices; on this basis there has been no marketing problem or uncertainty as to price increases. Britain and the Allies have taken the entire surplus production of aluminium, copper, zinc and nickel, as well as large quantities of lead, asbestos, pyrites, sulphur and appreciable quantities of miscellaneous non-ferrous metals and minerals.

The over-all war needs of the Allied nations have increased enormously and in order to meet these needs it has been necessary to restrict domestic consumption and enforce a rigid export control policy. The following outline is designed to give a summary of the main features of the controls in effect at the end of 1941.

\* This material, with the exception of the section on solid fuels, was compiled in co-operation with Wartime Industries Control Board, from information supplied by the Department of Munitions and Supply. The section on the control of solid fuels was revised by F. G. Noate, Deputy Coal Administrator.