

2. The creation of essential foreign credits by the production of gold and silver and of other minerals, surplus to national needs, for export sale to other countries.

The production of gold was reaching new high records each year so that in 1940 Canada stood second among the countries of the world with 12.8 p.c. of the total world production. As already indicated, developments in connection with base metals enabled Canadian companies to produce large supplies of copper, nickel, lead and zinc on a low-cost basis. Metallurgical processes had been extended to include final refining operations of sufficient capacity to handle the major part of Canadian production. In this field, while no aluminium ores are mined in Canada, with the availability of low-cost hydro-electric power, metallurgical plants for the production, from imported ores, of refined aluminium on a large scale had been established. At the beginning of the War, producers of all these base metals entered into voluntary agreements with the British Government to sell the surplus above Canadian requirements at practically no advance on the low prices prevailing before the War, thus assuring the British of a supply of these essential materials without the risk of advancing prices.

In the case of fuels, non-metallics other than fuels, and structural materials, productive capacity in Canada for many essential minerals was more than sufficient to provide for the then-existing industrial and civil requirements. Thus the expanding demands of war industries and the construction operations necessitated by various features of the war program were readily met.

2.—Mineral Production of Canada, 1938-40

Mineral	1938		1939		1940			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
Metallics								
Antimony..... lb.	24,560	2,200	1,225,585	151,469	}	2,796,522 ²		
Bismuth..... "	9,516	9,754	409,449	466,362				
Cadmium..... "	699,138	561,799	939,691	662,209				
Chromite..... "	Nil	-	Nil	-				
Cobalt..... lb.	459,226	790,913	732,561	1,213,454				
Manganese ore..... ton ¹	Nil	-	396	3,688				
Molybdenite concentrates..... lb.	13,000	4,500	2,722	816				
Tungsten concentrates..... lb.	Nil	-	8,825	4,917				
Copper..... "	571,249,664	56,554,034	608,825,570	60,934,859			}	155,922,881 ²
Nickel..... "	210,572,738	53,914,494	226,105,865	50,920,305				
Lead..... "	418,927,660	14,008,941	388,569,550	12,313,768	}	204,479,093 ³		
Zinc..... "	381,506,588	11,723,698	394,533,860	12,108,244				
Gold..... fine oz.	4,725,117	166,205,990 ³	5,094,379	184,115,951 ³			}	9,116,172
Silver..... "	22,219,195	9,660,239	23,163,629	9,378,490				
Palladium, rhodium, iridium, etc..... "	130,893	3,677,342	135,402	4,199,622			}	7,761,108 ³
Platinum..... "	161,326	5,196,794	148,902	5,222,589				
Arsenic (As ₂ O ₃)..... lb.	2,175,646	56,538	1,741,917	52,257			}	2,427,246 ²
Iron ore..... ton ¹	Nil	-	123,598	341,594				
Mercury..... lb.	760	760	436	1,226				
Radium and uranium..... "	4	4	4	1,121,553				
Selenium..... lb.	358,929	622,742	150,771	266,714				
Tellurium..... "	48,237	82,967	2,940	4,769				
Titanium ore..... ton ¹	207	1,449	3,694	21,267				
Totals, Metallics.....	-	323,075,154	-	343,506,123	-	382,503,012		
Fuels								
Coal..... ton ¹	14,294,718	43,982,171	15,537,443	48,315,224	17,566,884	54,676,993		
Natural gas..... M cu. ft.	33,444,791	11,587,450	35,185,146	12,507,307	41,232,125	13,000,593		
Peat..... ton ¹	620	3,500	445	2,445	30	75		
Petroleum, crude..... bbl.	6,966,084	9,230,173	7,826,301	9,846,352	8,590,978	11,160,213		
Totals, Fuels.....	-	64,803,294	-	70,671,328	-	78,837,874		

For footnotes, see end of table, p. 286.