

Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals

The metals of chief importance in Canada are copper, gold, lead, mercury, nickel, those of the platinum group, radium, silver and zinc. These are dealt with in order below. In addition, there are a number of metals produced in minor quantities, principally as by-products in the treatment of metalliferous ores (see Tables 2 and 6). World production figures for gold and silver are given at pp. 317-319.

Subsection 1.—Copper

A brief outline of the development of the copper-mining industry in Canada is given at pp. 249-250 of the 1941 Year Book.

Copper is usually considered as second to iron in importance among war metals, more because of the large quantities required in the application of ordinary industrial processes to war needs than for its specific military uses. The Dominion is equipped with two large copper refineries, at Copper Cliff and Montreal East, capable of turning out about 80 p.c. of the total production in the form of refined metal. The Canadian copper-mining industry is therefore in a position to make a major contribution toward meeting war-time requirements. Furthermore, the industry, by its ability to produce this copper profitably at the low pre-war price of slightly over 10 cents per pound, is making a substantial contribution to the conservation of financial resources.

9.—Copper Produced in Canada, by Provinces, with Total Values, 1926-42

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1886-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 272 of the 1916-17 Year Book and for 1911-25 at p. 335 of the 1939 edition.

Year	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	British Columbia	Yukon	Totals	
							Quantity	Value
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	\$
1926.....	2,674,058	41,312,867	Nil	—	89,108,017	Nil	133,094,942	17,490,300
1927.....	3,119,848	45,341,295	“	—	91,686,297	“	140,147,440	17,195,487
1928.....	33,697,949	66,607,510	“	—	102,283,210	107,377	202,696,046	28,598,249
1929.....	55,337,169	88,879,853	“	—	103,908,738	Nil	248,120,760	43,415,251
1930.....	80,310,363	127,718,871	2,087,609	—	93,318,885	42,628	303,478,356	37,948,359
1931.....	68,376,985	112,882,625	45,821,432	—	65,223,348	Nil	292,304,390	24,114,065
1932.....	67,336,692	77,055,413	52,706,861	—	50,580,104	“	247,679,070	15,294,058
1933.....	69,943,882	145,504,720	38,163,181	3,223,941 ¹	43,146,724	“	299,982,448	21,634,853
1934.....	73,968,545	205,059,539	30,867,141	6,618,913	48,246,924	“	364,761,062	26,671,438
1935.....	79,050,906	252,027,928	38,011,371	11,429,452	38,478,043	“	418,997,700	32,311,960
1936.....	66,340,175	287,914,078	29,853,220	14,971,609	21,169,343	“	421,027,732 ²	39,514,101 ³
1937.....	94,653,132	322,039,208	44,920,835	22,436,843	45,797,988	“	530,028,615 ²	68,917,219 ²
1938.....	112,645,797	309,030,106	65,582,772	18,156,157	65,759,265	“	571,249,664 ²	56,554,034 ²
1939.....	117,238,897	328,429,665	70,458,890	18,133,149	73,253,408	“	608,825,570 ²	60,934,859 ²
1940.....	134,166,955	347,931,013	75,267,937	20,484,954	77,742,582	“	655,593,441	65,773,061
1941.....	143,783,978	333,829,767	67,018,563	32,324,512	66,327,166	“	643,316,713 ²	64,407,497 ²
1942.....	140,911,876	308,282,414	47,595,586	56,781,466	50,015,521	“	603,661,826 ²	60,417,372 ²

¹ First reported production.

² Includes 779,307 lb. valued at \$73,855 produced in Nova Scotia in 1936; 180,609 lb. at \$23,620 in 1937; 75,567 lb. valued at \$7,535 produced in N.W.T. in 1938; 1,269,179 lb. valued at \$128,086 produced in Nova Scotia and 42,382 lb. valued at \$4,277 produced in N.W.T. in 1939; 32,727 lb. valued at \$3,301 produced in N.W.T. in 1941; and 74,963 lb. at \$7,561 in 1942.

Subsection 2.—Gold

The primary importance of gold production in connection with Canada's war effort is its function in strengthening the foreign credit position, particularly in relation to the United States. Gold is still by far the most important item on the mineral production list from point of value although the output for 1943 was the lowest since 1935 and 24.6 p.c. below that of 1942. This reduction was necessitated by increased need of base metals for war requirements rather than gold for foreign exchange.