

Subsection 4.—Lead

Lead in Canada is obtained largely from the ores of British Columbia, where production began with 88,665 lb. in 1891. Bounties were paid on lead produced in Canada from 1899 to 1918 but the highest production of this period was 63,200,000 lb. in 1900. However, the successful solving by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of the metallurgical problems connected with the separation and reduction of these lead-zinc ores accounts to a considerable extent for the rapid growth in lead production during recent years.

In the East and West Kootenay districts of British Columbia there are many important mines, the principal of which is the Sullivan lead-zinc mine near Kimberley. The ore averages about 11 p.c. lead, 7 p.c. zinc and 5 ounces of silver to the ton. As a result of the low prices prevailing from 1930 to 1935 for lead, zinc and silver, many of the small silver-lead mines of the Slocan remained idle.

In the other provinces, occurrences of lead have been found in Gaspé Peninsula and in the Rouyn district of Quebec, but the only production of importance has come from the Notre-Dame-des-Anges district, Portneuf County, where the Tetreault mine produces lead and zinc concentrates. An important source of lead in recent years is the silver-lead ores of the Mayo district of Yukon. In 1935 production of silver-lead-zinc concentrates was resumed at the Sterling Mine, Richmond County, Nova Scotia, but operations ceased in 1939. Production by provinces in 1943 is shown in Table 6, p. 303.

The data in Table 13 represent the quantities of lead produced in Canada from domestic ores, together with estimated recovery from lead ores and concentrates exported.

13.—Quantities and Values of Lead Produced from Canadian Ores, 1926-44

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1887-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 367 of the 1929 Year Book; for the years 1911-25 and 1927-28 at p. 341 of the 1939 edition.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	lb.	\$		lb.	\$
1926.....	283,801,265	19,240,661	1937.....	411,999,484	21,053,173
1929.....	326,522,566	16,544,248	1938.....	418,927,660	14,008,941
1930.....	332,894,163	13,102,635	1939.....	388,569,550	12,313,768
1931.....	267,342,482	7,260,183	1940.....	471,850,256	15,863,605
1932.....	255,947,378	5,409,704	1941.....	460,167,005	15,470,815
1933.....	266,475,191	6,372,998	1942.....	512,142,562	17,218,233
1934.....	346,275,576	8,436,658	1943.....	444,060,769	16,670,041
1935.....	339,105,079	10,624,772	1944 ¹	301,073,919	13,548,327
1936.....	383,180,909	14,993,869			

¹ Subject to revision.

Subsection 5.—Magnesium

This metal, the lightest that is stable under atmospheric conditions, is in great demand for war purposes. It is used for the construction of aeroplanes and parts of aeroplane engines and, in addition, has wide uses in powdered form for flares and incendiaries.

So far as North America is concerned, Canada has pioneered in magnesium production. First commercial output on this continent was from United States raw materials processed by Shawinigan Electro Metals Company from 1915 to 1919.