

It should be emphasized in this connection that Canada has reached a stage in its mineral development where careful planning and the use of scientific methods are required in the search for new sources of mineral supply. The present-day prospector and exploration company realizes that most of the so-called "easy finds" have probably been made, and that every advantage must be taken of the benefits of science to avoid wasted efforts and expenditure and to provide reasonable assurance of success. Geophysical methods of prospecting in conjunction with geological surveys are being used to an increasing extent, more particularly in areas where the overburden is thick. These methods have undergone considerable improvement in recent years, but they cannot be employed to full advantage until further improvements are made.

As had been expected, there was a substantial decline in the demand for most products of the mines following the cessation of hostilities. This caused no great concern, as there were indications that the decline was temporary in nature and that it would be followed in due course by a rising demand for these products. Throughout the War the production of civilian goods of all classes was reduced to a minimum in Canada and elsewhere. These goods, for the most part, require the use, directly or indirectly, of metals and minerals in their manufacture, and it seems evident from the extent of the demand for such goods, that tremendous quantities of these raw materials will be required. Moreover, as a result of scientific achievements during the War, many new products will be marketed in due course, and a marked increase in the use of transportation and other services can be expected. These latter factors will tend to increase the demand for metals and minerals. It seems likely also that the rehabilitation of the economy of war-torn portions of Europe and Asia will provide an important outlet for these products. It is well to keep in mind, however, that forecasts made at an early stage in the reconversion period are almost unavoidably influenced by what might be described as mass reaction resulting from a long period during which goods and services were in short supply. Thus the demand may level off when it is realized that production is again fully underway and that requirements can be obtained without difficulty.

In any event, as a producer of most of the principal metals and minerals, Canada is vitally concerned in all matters likely to affect the outlook for the mineral industry. What bearing the outlook will have on the economic development of the country as a whole can be best appraised, perhaps, by considering the divisions or branches of the industry in order of their importance from the viewpoint of their annual value of production. On this basis the gold industry is first in importance by a fairly wide margin, and is followed in order by the non-ferrous base metals; other metals or metallic ores; the fuels; and the non-metallic minerals, including the clay products and other structural materials. These groups are considered in the order given.

**The Gold Industry.**—Since 1930 gold has been the greatest single contributor to the Canadian mineral output. Production reached a peak of 5,345,179 fine oz. valued at \$205,789,392 in 1941. Owing to wartime restrictions it declined steadily until the late summer of 1945, the output for that year amounting to 2,661,567 fine oz., valued at \$102,470,330. Canada, however, has continued to hold second position as a gold producer, being exceeded only by South Africa.

Little comment is needed as to the importance of gold mining to the national welfare, for few industries have contributed more toward the strengthening of the Canadian economy. Prior to 1931 when the price of gold began to rise the major