

Table 1 gives the most recent estimate of Canadian mineable coal reserves, based on data compiled for the Report of the Royal Commission on Coal, 1946. The method by which the estimates are arrived at is described at pp. 466-467 of the 1947 Year Book.

It will be noted that the estimated coal reserves are arranged in five different classes. The reason for this is that more than one rank of coal occurs in some of the deposits and the tonnages of some of these are so small or indefinite, due to the lack of chemical analysis, that it is difficult or impossible to separate the different ranks.

The reserves of each of these classes are calculated under the headings "Probable Reserves" and "Possible (Additional) Reserves". The Probable Reserves are those that have been calculated on considerable geological, drilling and mining development data, whereas the Possible (Additional) Reserves are those based on geological data of much more limited extent.

Section 3.—Summary of Mineral Production

The importance of mineral production as compared with other primary industries in Canada is indicated in Chapter X while its part in the foreign trade of Canada is dealt with in Chapter XXII, Part I, especially Section 4.

Subsection 1.—Value and Volume of Mineral Production

Historical Statistics.—Definite records of the annual value of mineral production go back to 1886 only, although actual production began with the earliest settlements. The figures given in Table 2 are not strictly comparable throughout the whole period, minor changes having been adopted in methods of computing both the metallic content of ores sold and the valuations of the products. Earlier methods resulted in a somewhat higher value than those now in use would have shown. However, the changes do not interfere with the general usefulness of the figures in showing the broad trends in the mineral industry.

2.—Value of Mineral Production, 1886-1948

Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
1886.....	10,221,255	2-23	1930.....	279,873,578	27-42	1939.....	474,602,059	42-12
1890.....	16,763,353	3-51				1940.....	529,825,035	46-55
1895.....	20,505,917	4-08	1931 ¹	230,434,726	22-21	1941.....	560,241,290	48-69
1900.....	64,420,877	12-15	1932.....	191,228,225	18-19	1942.....	566,768,672	48-63
1905.....	69,078,999	11-51	1933.....	221,495,253	20-83	1943.....	530,053,966	44-87
1910.....	106,823,623	15-29	1934.....	278,161,590	25-90	1944.....	485,819,114	40-57
1915.....	137,109,171	17-18	1935.....	312,344,457	28-80	1945.....	498,755,181	41-15
1920.....	227,859,665	26-63	1936.....	361,919,372	33-05	1946.....	502,816,251	40-86
1925.....	226,583,333	24-38	1937.....	457,359,092	41-41	1947.....	644,869,975 ²	51-25 ²
1929.....	310,850,246	31-73	1938.....	441,823,237	39-62	1948.....	806,180,215 ²	62-58 ²

¹ Beginning with 1931, exchange equalization on gold production is included.

² Subject to revision.

Current Production.—Substantial improvement in the volume of production of the major metals and non-metals, and higher market prices for most of them, brought the value of Canada's mineral production in 1948 to a record total of