

Metals of the Platinum Group.—This group of metals includes palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, osmium and iridium, with platinum and iridium as the most important. These metals occur in the nickel-copper ore of the Sudbury district and are recovered in the tank residues from the nickel refinery at Port Colborne, Ont. The crude residues are sent to the refinery at Acton, England, for refining. The great increase in the output of nickel-copper ores has made Canada the leading producer of platinum since 1934, when it displaced Russia. The industrial uses of the platinum metals have expanded considerably in recent years, particularly in electrical and chemical equipment, jewellery and in medical and dental appliances. Canada produced 260,400 fine oz. of platinum metals for a total value of \$16,000,000, in 1948.

14.—Quantities and Values of Platinum and Palladium Produced, 1939-48

NOTE.—Records of the platinum production in Canada go back to 1887 but, prior to 1921, the amounts were comparatively small and the basis of calculation was not comparable with that now used. Figures for the years 1921-38 will be found at p. 340 of the 1940 Year Book.

Year	Platinum		Palladium ¹		Year	Platinum		Palladium ¹	
	oz. fine	\$	oz. fine	\$		oz. fine	\$	oz. fine	\$
1939.....	148,902	5,222,589	135,402	4,199,622	1944.....	157,523	6,064,635	42,929	1,960,085
1940.....	108,486	4,240,362	91,523	3,520,746	1945....	208,234	8,017,010	458,674	18,671,074
1941.....	124,317	4,750,153	97,432	3,396,304	1946....	121,771	7,672,791	117,566	5,162,801
1942.....	285,228	10,898,561	222,573	8,279,221	1947....	94,570	5,582,467	110,332	4,387,740
1943.....	219,713	8,458,951	126,004	5,233,068	1948 ² ...	116,578	10,200,575	143,822	5,975,194

¹ Includes also rhodium, ruthenium, osmium and iridium.

² 1948 figures subject to revision.

Silver.—Silver, a by-product of most gold and base-metal mines, increased 25 p.c. in quantity in 1948 to 15,600,000 fine oz., including silver bullion and silver contained in concentrates exported. Production of fine silver was about 12,000,000 fine oz. in 1948 and the consumption by Canadian users, other than for coinage, was 4,500,000 fine oz.

Silver mining is not a distinct industry in Canada as the silver-bearing minerals occur in association with other metals of economic value. Most of the metal is obtained from the treatment of base-metal ores although substantial amounts are recovered from gold-quartz ores and from alluvial gold deposits. For many years the famous camp at Cobalt, Ont., supplied the bulk of Canada's silver, but output from this area has been quite small in recent years. In 1948, approximately 42 p.c. of Canada's silver came from British Columbia, 21 p.c. from Ontario, 14 p.c. from Quebec, 5 p.c. from Manitoba, 9 p.c. from Saskatchewan and 9 p.c. from Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

15.—Quantities and Values of Silver Produced, 1939-48

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1887-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 361 of the 1933 Year Book; for the years 1911-28 at p. 344 of the 1939 edition; for 1929-38 at p. 334 of the 1946 edition.

Year	Quantity		Value		Year	Quantity		Value	
	oz. fine	\$	oz. fine	\$		oz. fine	\$	oz. fine	\$
1939.....	23,163,629	9,378,490	13,627,109	5,859,656	1944.....	13,627,109	5,859,656	12,942,906	6,083,166
1940.....	23,833,752	9,116,172	12,942,906	6,083,166	1945.....	12,942,906	6,083,166	12,544,100	10,493,139
1941.....	21,754,408	8,323,454	12,544,100	10,493,139	1946.....	12,544,100	10,493,139	12,504,018	9,002,893
1942.....	20,695,101	8,726,296	12,504,018	9,002,893	1947.....	12,504,018	9,002,893	15,642,149	11,731,613
1943.....	17,344,569	7,849,111	15,642,149	11,731,613	1948 ¹	15,642,149	11,731,613		

¹ 1948 figures subject to revision.