

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 336,000 fine oz. of platinum metals for a total value of \$19,893,000, in 1949.

13.—Quantities and Values of Platinum and Palladium Produced, 1940-49

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 1921-39 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	\$
1940.....	108,486	4,240,362	91,522	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 ..	121,404	10,622,850	148,343	6,295,132
1944.....	157,523	6,064,635	42,929	1,960,085	1949....	153,784	11,603,002	182,233	8,289,915

¹ Includes also rhodium, ruthenium, osmium and iridium.

² The 1945 figures include an accumulated revision of previous years.

Silver.—Silver, a by-product of most gold and base-metal mines, increased 5 p.c. in quantity in 1949 to 17,641,000 fine oz., including silver bullion and silver contained in concentrates exported. Production of fine silver was about 14,300,000 fine oz. in 1949 and the consumption by Canadian users, other than for coinage, was 6,500,000 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. In 1949, approximately 43 p.c. of Canada's silver came from British Columbia, 18 p.c. from Quebec, 14 p.c. from Ontario, nearly 10 p.c. from Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and about 9 p.c. from Saskatchewan.

14.—Quantities and Values of Silver Produced, 1940-49

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 1929-39 at p. 334 of the 1946 edition.

Year	Quantity		Value	Year	Quantity		Value
	oz. fine	\$			oz. fine	\$	
1940.....	23,833,752	9,116,172	1945.....	12,942,906	6,083,166		
1941.....	21,754,408	8,323,454	1946.....	12,544,100	10,493,139		
1942.....	20,695,101	8,726,296	1947.....	12,504,018	9,002,893		
1943.....	17,344,569	7,849,111	1948 ² ..	16,109,982	12,082,487		
1944.....	13,627,109	5,859,656	1949.....	17,641,493	13,098,808		