

discovered in the Eastern Townships of Quebec in 1877 and Canada has since been one of the world's leading asbestos producers. In 1883, nickel-copper ores were found at Sudbury in Ontario and Canada has since been the world's leading nickel producer and one of the major copper producers. A number of gold, silver and base metal discoveries were made in southern British Columbia in the 1890s, including the great Sullivan mine, following an initial copper-gold discovery at Rossland in 1889. In 1896, the famous Klondike discovery in the Yukon precipitated the world's most spectacular gold rush. At the turn of the century, northern Ontario was the focus of attention when silver ore was discovered at Cobalt. This was followed by the discovery of many other major mining areas including the Porcupine gold mining camp in 1909 and Kirkland Lake in 1911. While exploration was continuing in northern Ontario and Quebec, leading to the Noranda copper find in the Rouyn district in 1921, oil and gas exploration in Western Canada resulted in the discovery of the important Turner Valley field near Calgary in 1913. The introduction of aircraft in mineral exploration in Northern Canada in the 1920s was a key factor in the discovery of pitchblende, a source of radium and uranium, at Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories in 1930, and in the finding of a number of gold and base metal deposits in the northern areas of the provinces, the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory in the 1930s. The Leduc oil discovery in Alberta in 1947 was the start of Canada's present-day oil industry, one of the most thriving sectors of the mineral economy. Since the immediate postwar period, mineral discoveries have been made in almost every region of Canada and the industry's rapid growth and increasing diversification have had a profound effect on the Canadian economy.

The dynamic role of the mineral industry is evident from the fact that in 1867 the value of mineral production was well under 1 p.c. of the gross national product whereas it now accounts for over 7 p.c. Since 1867, the value of mineral production on a per-capita basis has risen from an estimated \$1 to almost \$200; this increase resulted from a growth of mineral production value from about \$3,000,000 to nearly \$4,000,000,000, an increase that greatly outpaced the country's population growth and industrial production as a whole. Mineral exports have increased in proportion to production and now account for almost one third of all of Canada's merchandise exports. The mineral industry's record of the past hundred years is indeed one of greatly increasing importance and Canada now ranks as the world's third largest diversified mineral producer following the United States and the Soviet Union.

The historical trend of the value of mineral production is shown in Table 1. Statistics are available from 1886 and are given for five-year intervals from that date to 1950 and annually for subsequent years. These figures are not strictly comparable throughout the period because of minor changes in methods of computing metallic content of ores sold and valuations of products but serve as a measure of the tremendous growth of this major industry.

1.—Value of Mineral Production, 1886-1965

Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
1886.....	10,221,255	2.23	1935.....	312,344,457	28.84	1957.....	2,190,322,392	131.87
1890.....	18,763,353	3.51	1940.....	529,825,035	46.55	1958.....	2,100,739,038	122.99
1895.....	20,505,917	4.08	1945.....	498,755,181	41.31	1959.....	2,408,020,511	137.79
1900.....	64,420,877	12.15	1950 <sup>1</sup> .....	1,045,450,073	76.24	1960.....	2,492,509,981	139.48
1905.....	69,078,999	11.51	1951.....	1,245,483,595	88.90	1961.....	2,582,300,357	141.50
1910.....	108,823,623	15.29	1952.....	1,285,342,353	88.90	1962.....	2,850,986,179	153.53
1915.....	137,109,171	17.18	1953.....	1,336,303,503	90.02	1963.....	3,050,428,547	161.43
1920.....	227,859,665	36.63	1954.....	1,483,382,091	97.36	1964.....	3,287,971,534	176.14
1925.....	226,583,333	24.38	1955.....	1,795,310,796	114.37	1965.....	3,743,981,248	191.30
1930.....	279,873,578	27.42	1956.....	2,084,905,554	129.65			

<sup>1</sup>Value of Newfoundland production included from 1949.