Subsection 3.—Copper.

The copper-mining industry has developed at a very rapid rate. A production of 3,505,000 lb. in 1886 had doubled 6 years later. By 1913, the output had increased over twenty-one fold, amounting to 76,976,925 lb. The extraordinary demand for war requirements resulted in an average production from 1916 to 1918 of 115,048,931 lb. In the post-war depression production dropped to less than 43,000,000 lb. in 1922, but recovered rapidly and in 1930 reached the record of 303,478,356 lb. The preliminary estimate for 1931, a year of general depression with a very low price ruling for copper, indicates a production of 293,154,655 lb. or only slightly below the record of 1930. This contrasts favourably with the production in the former depression year 1922 and indicates the expansion of the copper industry in Canada in the past decade. Even with the low prices prevailing in 1931, copper remained third in value among the minerals produced in Canada.

Copper discoveries made in 1929 and 1930 in the Coppermine River area between Great Bear lake and Coronation gulf were systematically prospected during 1931. One vein near Dismal lake was described as consisting of almost solid bornite (copper mineral), with widths of from 12 to 15 feet.

Quebec.—Until 1894, when Ontario took the lead, Quebec was the chief copper-producing province of Canada, the principal mines being the Eustis and Huntingdon properties in the Eastern Townships. These mines produced ores from which both copper and sulphur were recovered. There is still an annual production from this field. Recent developments in the Rouyn camp of northwestern Quebec, however, have resulted in a greatly increased production of copper since 1927. These deposits are associated with an easterly extension of formations similar to those of the Kirkland Lake area in Ontario. The first discoveries were located as gold prospects; the existence of large bodies of copper and zinc ores was subsequently proved and there is now a large production of copper as well as of gold. A branch line from the Canadian National Railways into the camp was completed during 1926, and subsequently a branch of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway was also extended to the camp. The construction of a copper smelter at the Noranda mine was completed and production begun in December, 1927. Hydro-electric power is supplied from power plants on the Quinze river. During 1931 the Canadian Copper Refiners, Ltd., commenced treating blister copper in their new plant located at Montreal East. This material came from the Noranda smelter and the smelter at Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Ontario.—The Sudbury deposits were first noted in 1856 but did not attract attention until 1883-4, during the period of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, when a railway cutting was made through the small hill on which the Murray mine was afterwards located. During the first few years the deposits were developed for their copper content alone; not until 1887 was the presence of nickel determined and the true value of the ores made known. The nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury area are the source of nearly all the copper produced in Ontario. Under the International Nickel Co. of Canada, which is an amalgamation of the former International Nickel Co. and the Mond Nickel Co., an extensive program of expansion in the mining and metallurgical facilities of the district has been carried