

### Section 4.—Statistics of Mineral Production

The importance of mineral production, as compared with other primary industries in Canada, is indicated in Chapter IX, while its part in the foreign trade of Canada is dealt with in Chapter XXI.

#### 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 1 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.

Except for the 1920-30 period, the value of Canada's mineral production practically doubled each decade since the turn of the century. From \$64,000,000 in 1900, it rose to \$107,000,000 in 1910 and \$228,000,000 in 1920. In 1930 it was \$280,000,000, rising to \$530,000,000 in 1940 and \$1,045,000,000 in 1950. Similarly, the revised index of physical volume of output from Canadian mines (*see* p. 523) advanced from 37·6 (average 1935-39=100) in 1920 to 63·9 in 1930 and 125·7 in 1940. In the next decade, however, the volume gain was not quite so rapid, the index standing at 145·4 in 1950 and 174·7 in 1952.

1.—Value of Mineral Production, 1886-1952

Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
1886.....	10,221,255	2·23	1931 <sup>1</sup> .....	230,434,726	22·21	1942.....	566,768,672	48·63
1890.....	16,763,353	3·51	1932.....	191,228,225	18·19	1943.....	530,053,966	44·94
1895.....	20,505,917	4·08	1933.....	221,495,253	20·83	1944.....	485,819,114	40·67
1900.....	64,420,877	12·15	1934.....	278,161,590	25·90	1945.....	498,755,181	41·32
1905.....	69,078,999	11·51	1935.....	312,344,457	28·80	1946.....	502,816,251	40·91
1910.....	106,823,623	15·29	1936.....	361,919,372	33·05	1947.....	644,869,975	51·38
1915.....	137,109,171	17·18	1937.....	457,359,092	41·41	1948.....	820,248,865	63·97
1920.....	227,859,665	26·63	1938.....	441,823,237	39·62	1949 <sup>2</sup> .....	901,110,026	67·01
1925.....	226,583,333	24·38	1939.....	474,602,059	42·12	1950.....	1,045,450,073	76·24
1929.....	310,850,246	31·73	1940.....	529,825,035	46·55	1951.....	1,245,483,595	88·33
1930.....	279,873,578	27·42	1941.....	560,241,290	48·69	1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,278,365,516	90·66

<sup>1</sup> Beginning with 1931, exchange equalization on gold production is included.

<sup>2</sup> Includes value of Newfoundland production from 1949.

**Current Production.**—Mineral production during 1952 was valued at \$1,278,000,000, according to a preliminary estimate. This was the highest output value on record, being \$33,000,000 or 2·6 p.c. above the 1951 total of \$1,245,000,000. The outstanding gain was made by crude petroleum which was \$27,000,000 above the 1951 value, but asbestos and cement were each up about \$7,000,000 and iron ore about \$3,000,000. On the other hand, the output values for the principal metals, including gold, nickel, copper, zinc and lead, were all below the corresponding totals for the previous year.

The total output value of all metals was \$728,000,000 in 1952 compared with \$746,000,000 in 1951, a drop of 2·4 p.c. In volume of output the gains outnumbered the losses but these advances were not sufficient to offset the price