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W. H. LOSEE, B. Sc. - Acting Chief of the  
MINING, METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCH

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### Monthly Report on

## CANADA'S LEADING MINERAL PRODUCTS

MARCH 1930

Monthly production statistics relating to Canada's leading minerals are available since January, 1929, when the collection of these data was undertaken by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This report is the third issue of the monthly series.

Features of the month under review were the monthly records set up in the output of copper, lead, petroleum and zinc.

Canada's copper production of 28,194,655 pounds showed an advance of 50 per cent over the total for March, 1929. Ontario was the chief producing province with an output amounting to 12.28 million pounds; Quebec produced 8.63 million pounds; and British Columbia followed with a production of 7.28 million pounds. A review of the first quarter of 1930 shows an increase in copper production of 35.4 per cent over the same period of 1929. Copper prices were firm during the first three months; the United States domestic price was 18 cents per pound, f.o.b. Connecticut.

Gold output rose 5.1 per cent to a total of 163,771 ounces from the March 1929 production of 155,850 ounces. Ontario's total was 142,952 ounces; British Columbia's 9,373 ounces; and production from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and the Yukon accounted for the remainder.

Lead production from Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon totalled 32,235,285 pounds or 35.1 per cent higher than the March, 1929, output. The London lead quotation for the month was 4.086 cents per pound; the Montreal price was 5.95 cents per pound.

Nickel output at 9.8 million pounds was considerably higher than the total for the corresponding month of 1929.

Silver output during March was up 17.04 per cent, to a total of 1,814,597 ounces; the March, 1929, production was 1,550,356 ounces. The average New York price for silver was 41.654 cents per ounce as compared with 56.346 cents per ounce a year ago.

Zinc production continued the advance recorded during the past three months and reached a new high mark at 22,347,219 pounds. The Montreal price in March was 5.55 cents per pound as compared with 7.37 cents per pound in March 1929.

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during March amounted to 19,559 tons: a slight falling off from the total for the same month a year ago. The first quarter's production registered a decline of 15.4 per cent from the total for the corresponding period of 1929.

Coal mined in Canada during March amounted to 1,129,571 tons, a decrease of 7.6 per cent from the five-year March average of 1,211,710 tons. The March output was made up of 863,151 tons of bituminous, 28,916 tons of sub-bituminous and 237,504 tons of lignite.

Feldspar shipments declined during March. Production for the first quarter was 11,205 tons as against 13,211 tons in the first three months of 1929.

Gypsum production showed a considerable decrease in March, due in the main to a decline in Nova Scotia shipments.

Production of natural gas from Canadian wells in March was 3,016,480 thousand cubic feet or 11 per cent higher than the total for March 1929. There was little change in the New Brunswick and Ontario production; increased output by Alberta's wells accounted for the augmented total.

Increased production from the wells in the Turner Valley field, Alberta, in March, was responsible for the setting up of a new high record for petroleum production in Canada, the total Canadian output for the month was 119,350 barrels.

Salt was produced in Nova Scotia and Ontario during March. The total quantity sold or used by the producing companies was 22,873 tons, making the aggregate for the quarter 67,648 tons, or 11.9 per cent less than in the first three months of 1929.

The value of contracts awarded bears a close relationship to the production of structural materials. In March, 1930, according to Maclean's Building Review, the estimated value of contracts awarded was 24.6 million dollars as compared with 27.13 million dollars in March, 1929. Contracts awarded in the first quarter of the current year were down 7.4 per cent compared with the same period of 1929, but this year's quarterly total was 33.6 per cent higher than the 1925-1929 first quarter average.

Cement sales during March amounted to 448,884 barrels, making a total of 1,013,839 barrels for the first quarter of 1930 as against 1,398,204 barrels sold during the first three months of 1929.

Clay products sold or used by Canadian producers during the three months ending March were valued at \$1,544,683, of this total Ontario plants accounted for 52 per cent and those in Quebec, 19 per cent.

Lime production in March 1930, was 40,108 tons, thus making a total for the first quarter of 118,663 tons, a decline of 10.6 per cent from the output during the first three months of 1929.

#### PRODUCTION OF LEADING MINERALS IN CANADA.

		February	March	March	Three Months ending	
		1930	1930	1929	1929	1930
					March	
Asbestos	tons	16,112	19,559	22,109	62,412	52,788
Cement	brls.	295,810	448,884	581,815	1,398,204	1,013,839
Clay Products	\$	446,813	620,421	668,303	1,655,600	1,544,683
Coal	tons	1,185,458	1,129,571	1,387,696	4,622,723	3,945,207
Copper	lb.	24,226,221	28,194,655	18,777,027	57,145,695	77,357,632
Feldspar	tons	7,470	1,195	4,505	13,211	11,205
Gold	fine oz.	145,436	163,771	155,850	452,229	463,321
Gypsum	tons	11,410	15,573	41,772	104,055	38,260
Lead	lb.	31,860,290	32,235,285	23,856,042	69,162,617	87,326,822
Lime	tons	36,118	40,108	47,589	132,586	118,663
Natural gas	M cu. ft.	3,178,862	3,016,480	2,717,365	9,420,980	10,083,859
Nickel	lb.	7,734,229	9,836,941	8,785,121	26,887,413	26,799,180
Petroleum	brls.	89,961	119,350	69,691	177,590	309,807
Salt	tons	20,245	22,873	29,674	76,763	67,648
Silver	fine oz.	1,841,836	1,814,597	1,550,356	4,255,118	5,365,655
Zinc	lb.	20,686,156	22,347,219	18,979,341	51,107,131	60,787,664

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