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Monthly Report on

CANADA'S LEADING MINERAL PRODUCTS

APRIL 1931

Production statistics for April relating to Canada's leading mineral products, as compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show increases in the production of gold, copper, lead, zinc, natural gas, feldspar, petroleum and cement in comparison with the output in April, 1930.

Canadian copper producers reported an output of 27,845,741 pounds in April, an increase of 9.2 per cent over the March total and 4.7 per cent over the April, 1930, production. During the month under review Ontario produced 12.66 million pounds; Quebec, 6.92 million pounds; British Columbia, 5.45 million pounds, and Manitoba, 2.81 million pounds. The average price of electrolytic copper on the New York market was 9.392 cents per pound.

Gold production in Canada set up a new high monthly record in April when 223,082 ounces were produced. The Ontario output was 172,047 ounces consisting of 86,403 ounces from Kirkland Lake, 81,155 ounces from the Porcupine area, and 4,489 ounces from other sources. Quebec produced 32,888 ounces; British Columbia, 9,363 ounces; Manitoba, 8,267 ounces; and the Yukon and Nova Scotia the remainder.

Despite the decline in the average price of lead, production in Canada during April increased to a total of 32,239,191 pounds as compared with 27,650,026 pounds in March and 29,360,473 pounds in April, 1930. Quotations on the London market averaged 2.69 cents per pound as against 2.85 cents per pound in March. On April 20, according to the Engineering and Mining World, a plan to curtail production 15 per cent, effective May 1, was ratified at a meeting of the Lead Producers Association in London.

Nickel production in April was reported at 4,134,541 pounds.

The production of silver in April totalled 1,685,842 ounces as compared with 1,886,652 ounces in March and 2,568,017 ounces in April, 1930. Silver averaged 28.279 cents per ounce on the New York market; in the preceding month the average was 29.192 cents.

Zinc production in Canada totalled 22,707,451 pounds, a decrease of 2.5 per cent from the March total but an increase of 12.5 per cent over the April, 1930, output. The average price of zinc on the London market recorded a further decline to 2.466 cents per pound; in March the average price was 2.65 cents per pound.

Asbestos shipments amounted to 13,924 tons, a slight increase over the tonnage shipped in March but a falling off of 41.6 per cent from the April, 1930, total.

Coal production from Canadian mines in April amounted to 888,312 tons or 23 per cent below the five-year average for the month of 1,153,241 tons. Output during April consisted of 750,588 tons of bituminous coal, 21,400 tons of sub-bituminous coal and 116,324 tons of lignite coal.

Shipments of feldspar in April were recorded at 707 tons as compared with 510 tons in the corresponding month of last year.

Gypsum production from Canadian sources totalled 32,576 tons; in April, 1930, the total was 51,936 tons.

Natural gas production was at approximately the same level as during April, 1930, and amounted to 2,454,063 thousand cubic feet.

In April, Canadian wells produced 153,705 barrels of crude petroleum consisting of 694 barrels from New Brunswick, 10,467 barrels from Ontario and 142,544 barrels from Alberta. The Alberta production included 134,159 barrels from the Turner Valley field, 6,809 barrels from the Red Coulee field, and 1,576 barrels from the Wainwright-Ribstone field. During the previous month the total Canadian output was 160,358 barrels, while in April, 1930, production totalled 102,335 barrels.

Prior to March, 1931, monthly records of salt production included commercial salt and the salt content of brine used for chemical purposes; statistics for 1931 as shown in the table below refer only to commercial salt. Production during April amounted to 14,665 tons as against 13,346 tons shipped in March.

According to the MacLean Building Review contracts awarded during the first four months of the current year were valued at \$96,248,500, or 30 per cent below the total for the corresponding period of 1930.

Cement sales continued the rising trend shown during the first quarter and amounted to 827,264 barrels as compared with 781,736 barrels sold in April last year.

Clay products sold by Canadian producers in April were valued at \$745,192; in the corresponding month of 1930 sales reached a value of \$848,373.

Lime production totalled 36,350 tons in April, a falling off of 14.3 per cent from the tonnage produced in April, 1930.

PRODUCTION OF LEADING MINERALS IN CANADA.

		March	April	April	Four Months ending	
		1931	1931	1930	April	1931
					1930	1931
Asbestos	tons	13,114	13,924	23,825	76,613	52,992
Cement	brls.	599,367	827,264	781,736	1,795,625	2,171,110
Clay Products	\$	548,181	745,192	848,373	2,393,056	2,171,009
Coal	tons	1,049,350	888,312	907,451	4,882,548	4,078,325
Copper	lb.	25,508,733	27,845,741	26,599,188	103,956,820	98,185,106
Feldspar	tons	800	707	510	11,715	2,484
Gold	fine oz.	203,818	223,082	169,166	632,487	824,803
Gypsum	tons	10,828	32,576	51,936	90,196	72,566
Lead	lb.	27,650,026	32,239,191	29,360,473	116,687,295	107,805,497
Lime	tons	30,989	36,350	42,412	161,075	122,860
Natural gas	M cu. ft.	2,750,721	2,454,063	2,433,026	12,516,885	11,380,921
Nickel	lb.	8,358,289	4,134,541	10,190,755	36,989,935	25,686,959
Petroleum	brls.	160,358	153,705	102,335	412,142	649,425
Salt	tons	+13,346	+14,665	26,792	94,440	+49,880
Silver	fine oz.	1,886,652	1,685,842	2,568,017	7,933,672	7,801,929
Zinc	lb.	23,297,788	22,707,451	20,180,602	80,968,266	86,872,594

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