

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA

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OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, 1931.

Owing to the drastic reduction in metal prices and on account of a lessened demand for non-metallic minerals and structural materials, the total value of the mineral production of Canada in 1931 amounted to \$227,769,000 as against \$279,873,578 in 1930, according to a report just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Gold production, however, stimulated by lower commodity prices and the present exchange situation, increased 27.5 per cent over 1930 and assisted materially in offsetting the loss occasioned by the general drop in metal prices. Metals as a group were valued at \$116,431,000 as against \$142,743,764 in 1930. Fuels, consisting of coal, natural gas, and crude petroleum totalled \$55,531,000, a decline of 18 per cent from the previous year. Other non-metallics including asbestos, gypsum, salt, feldspar, magnesite, sodium sulphate and many minor minerals were valued at \$10,958,000 as compared with \$15,217,864 in 1930. Structural materials such as cement, lime, stone, sand and gravel, and the various clay products totalled \$44,849,000, a decrease of 16.5 per cent from the preceding twelve months.

Canada's sixteen leading mineral products representing 98 per cent of the total mineral production in 1931 were as follows: gold, \$55,395,000; coal, \$41,320,000; copper, \$23,772,000; sand and gravel and stone, \$17,470,000; cement, \$15,722,000; nickel, \$14,697,000; natural gas, \$9,645,000; clay products, \$8,626,000; lead, \$7,241,000; zinc, \$6,019,000; silver, \$5,984,000; asbestos, \$4,611,000; petroleum, \$4,566,000; lime, \$3,031,000; salt, \$2,315,000; gypsum, \$2,018,000. In 1930 the latest year for which industrial statistics are available the capital invested in Canada's operating mines, smelters, oil and gas wells, quarries and brick plants totalled some \$867,500,000. More than 89,000 men were employed and these received upwards of \$114,000,000 in salaries and wages. These figures readily show the tremendous influence of mining on the general and industrial life of the country.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, 1910-1931 in FIVE YEAR PERIODS.

Years	Metallics	Fuels and other non-metallics	Clay products and other structural materials	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1910	49,438,873	37,757,158	19,627,592	106,823,625
1915	75,814,841	43,373,571	17,920,759	137,109,171
1920	77,939,650	108,027,947	41,892,088	227,859,665
1925	117,082,298	71,851,801	37,649,234	226,583,333
1930	142,743,764	83,402,349	53,727,465	279,873,578
1931 (x)...	116,431,000	66,489,000	44,849,000	227,769,000

(x) Subject to revision.

Gold, which the Dominion is producing in ever increasing quantities, is the bright spot in the 1931 mining picture. With an output of 2,102,068 fine ounces in 1930, Canada attained second place among the gold producing countries of the world. In 1931 production totalled 2,679,728 fine ounces worth \$55,394,892 which does not include the premium received by the gold mining companies due to the present rate of exchange; as in other years the 1931 output of gold was valued at the standard rate of \$20.671834 per fine ounce. Gold is now Canada's most valuable mineral product even surpassing that of coal which held the premier position for so many years. Increases in gold production over 1930 were noted in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and the Yukon but Nova Scotia and British Columbia showed declines, though placer gold output from the latter province was greater than in 1930.

Noranda Mines Limited are fortunate in having copper ore high in gold which is presently being mined and the output from this source coupled with increases by the Siscoe and Granada mines increased the output from Quebec from 141,747 fine ounces in 1930 to 303,300 fine ounces last year and places Quebec second among the gold producing provinces of the Dominion. Intensive development is being done at the O'Brien Cadillac gold mine and much interest is being shown at other likely looking gold properties in the province. Ontario produced 78 per cent of the total gold mined in Canada and in 1931 passed the two million ounce mark. Output totalled 2,084,959 fine ounces made up of 962,688 ounces from the Porcupine camp, 1,054,017 ounces from the mines of Kirkland Lake and the remainder from other gold properties and the nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district.

Manitoba output reached 100,510 fine ounces as compared with 23,189 fine ounces in 1930, the increase being due in large part to the continuous operation of the Hudson Bay smelter which treats copper-zinc-gold-silver bearing ores from the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon mines. The Central Manitoba gold mine operated continuously throughout the year and a mill is now under construction at the San Antonio mine which is expected to be in operation in the spring of 1932.

British Columbia's gold production at 153,934 fine ounces was slightly under the 1930 output of 164,331 ounces. Placer gold output was larger but the lode gold yield fell off due to decreases by the Premier, less gold from copper ores and the closing down in 1930 of the Nickel Plate Gold mine at Hedley. This mine has been in fairly continuous operation since its discovery in 1893 and during that time has produced over 10 million dollars in gold. The Pioneer mine in the Bridge River section of the province showed a marked improvement in output but the increase was not great enough to offset the losses from other sources. In the Yukon district

placer gold output at 36,280 fine ounces was slightly greater than in the previous year.

Silver prices in 1931 were the lowest ever recorded. The average for February was 26.773 cents per fine ounce and the price fluctuated between 27 and 29.5 cents until November, the average for that month being 32.223 cents. These low prices had their effect and production at 20,403,771 fine ounces was 23 per cent lower than in the previous year. The total value fell off from \$10,089,376 in 1930 to \$5,984,109 for the year under review. Ontario output totalled 7,036,222 fine ounces as against 10,205,683 fine ounces last year; and the British Columbia output dropped 30 per cent to 8,339,989 fine ounces; the silver-lead ores of the Yukon were responsible for 3,683,030 fine ounces and the remainder was made up from mines in Manitoba and Quebec.

Copper production totalled 290,581,122 pounds, a decrease of only 4 per cent in quantity from last year but owing to the lower prices the total value of the output was less by 37 per cent. Copper is produced in Quebec in the form of blister copper at the Noranda smelter and in concentrates which are exported from Eustis. Ontario output is principally from the nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district; in Manitoba at the Hudson Bay smelter from Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon copper-gold-silver-zinc ores; in British Columbia at Anyox in the form of blister, and at Britannia in concentrates which are exported for treatment. It is a great tribute to the management of Canada's copper mines that through the co-operation of the owners, operators and miners they have been able to keep going under such adverse price and market conditions. Copper is refined in Canada at Copper Cliff by the Ontario Refining Company, Ltd., and at Montreal East by the Canadian Copper Refineries Limited.

The lower output of the steel industry is largely responsible for the lessened demand for nickel since nickel is a necessary constituent in many alloy steels. Metal production in 1931 was 68,103,521 pounds, a decrease of 36 per cent from the previous year.

Lead at 267,850,972 pounds decreased 20 per cent from 1930 and zinc at 236,861,153 pounds was 12 per cent lower than in the previous year.

Fuels

Coal production at 12,251,900 short tons worth \$41,320,000 was lower in all provinces except in Saskatchewan and the Yukon district. Production by provinces was as follows: Nova Scotia, 4,935,000 tons; New Brunswick, 175,000 tons; Saskatchewan, 667,000 tons; Alberta, 4,614,000 tons; British Columbia, 1,660,000 tons, and the Yukon, 900 tons.

Although coal production was less than in the previous year, considerable progress was made in marketing Canadian coal in areas which hitherto were served practically entirely with coal from sources other than our own mines. This improved situation is to a large extent due to the assistance provided by the government to aid Canadian coal in these highly competitive markets.

Natural gas production was 8.5 per cent under last year when 26,874,600 thousand cubic feet valued at \$9,645,180 were produced. Wells in Alberta accounted for 69.3 per cent of the total Canadian production. Ontario's output of natural gas reached 7,625,000 thousand cubic feet and New Brunswick produced 649,000 thousand cubic feet.

Crude petroleum production at 1,554,600 barrels valued at \$4,566,000 recorded a slight increase in quantity but a lower value when compared with 1930. Alberta's wells yielded 1,425,000 barrels, Ontario's wells produced 123,000 barrels, and wells in New Brunswick 6,600 barrels.

Other Non-Metallics.

Asbestos output at 162,278 tons was considerably lower than in 1931. Gypsum production also fell off. Feldspar output decreased 12,000 tons; production of salt was larger and sodium sulphate produced in Saskatchewan showed an improvement. Sulphur production in the form of iron pyrites and in sulphuric acid made from waste Bessemer gases was also larger. Other non-metallic production included barytes, diatomite, graphite, grindstones, iron oxides, magnesite, mica, mineral waters, phosphate, silica brick, sodium carbonate, and volcanic dust.

Clay Products and Other Structural Materials

Reflecting the depression in building and other construction work, the production of clay products was estimated at \$8,626,000 as compared with \$10,593,878 in 1930. Cement output was less for the same reason; production amounted to 10,017,331 barrels worth \$15,722,000. Lime production was 24 per cent lower in quantity and 25 per cent lower in value than last year. The value of stone and sand and gravel produced was estimated at \$17,470,000 as against \$21,382,122 in 1930.

OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, 1931, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1930.

	1 9 3 0		1 9 3 1	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
<u>METALS</u>				
Gold.....fine oz.	2,102,068	43,453,601	2,679,728	55,395,000
Silver.....fine oz.	26,443,823	10,089,376	20,403,771	5,924,000
Nickel.....lb.	103,768,857	24,455,153	66,103,521	14,697,000
Copper.....lb.	303,478,356	37,948,359	290,581,122	23,772,000
Lead.....lb.	332,894,163	13,102,635	267,850,972	7,241,000
Zinc.....lb.	267,643,505	9,635,166	236,861,153	6,019,000
Other metals..... -	...	4,059,494	...	3,523,000
Total Metals..... -	...	142,743,764	...	116,431,000
<u>NON-METALS</u>				
<u>Fuels</u>				
Coal.....tons	14,881,324	52,849,742	12,251,900	41,320,000
Natural gas.....M cu.ft.	29,376,919	10,289,985	26,674,600	9,645,000
Peat.....tons	2,847	10,932
Petroleum.....brls.	1,522,220	5,033,820	1,554,600	4,560,000
Total Fuels..... -	...	68,184,495	...	55,531,000
<u>Other Non-Metals</u>				
Asbestos.....tons	242,114	8,390,163	162,278	4,611,000
Feldspar.....tons	26,796	268,469	14,808	137,000
Gypsum.....tons	1,070,968	2,818,788	842,192	2,018,000
Quartz.....tons	226,200	418,127	140,788	282,000
Salt.....tons	271,695	1,694,631	235,170	2,515,000
Talc and soapstone..... -	...	186,216	...	165,000
Other non-metals..... -	...	1,441,470	...	1,430,000
Total Other Non-Metals. -	...	15,217,864	...	10,958,000
Total Fuels and Other Non-Metals	...	83,402,349	...	66,489,000
<u>CLAY PRODUCTS AND OTHER STRUCTURAL MATERIALS</u>				
Clay products (brick, tile, sewer pipe, pottery, etc.).. -	...	10,593,578	...	8,626,000
Cement.....brls.	11,032,530	17,713,067	10,017,331	15,722,000
Lime.....tons	490,802	4,036,698	373,812	3,031,000
Stone, and sand and gravel... -	...	21,322,122	...	17,470,000
Total Clay Products and Other Structural Materials -	...	53,727,465	...	44,849,000
GRAND TOTAL.....	...	279,873,578	...	227,769,000

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