

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA

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Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch

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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1932.

The value of Canada's mineral production in 1932 is estimated at \$182,701,000 as compared with \$228,029,018 in 1931, according to a report just issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa, Canada.

Metals as a group totalled \$103,133,000 as compared with \$118,524,439 in 1931; non-metals including coal, natural gas, petroleum, asbestos, gypsum, salt, magnesite, sodium sulphate and many minor minerals were valued at \$56,779,000 as against \$65,346,284, a drop of 13 per cent from the previous year; and owing to the decrease in construction work throughout the Dominion during the past year the value of the output of clay products, cement, lime, stone and sand and gravel totalled \$22,789,000 as compared with \$44,158,295 during 1931.

METALS - Canadian metal mines have had a severe test of their ability to survive the present world wide economic situation. This country has a large exportable surplus of copper, lead and zinc and to be able to successfully produce, at such low world prices as have existed during the past year, reflects great credit upon the management and the employees of the mines producing these metals. Never have the prices of base metals been so low, but Canada has developed during the past decade large base metal properties with the contingent smelting and refining facilities which have helped to keep her in the forefront of the world's mining industry. The drop in demand and in prices is reflected in the decreased output of the base metals but, on the other hand, in no previous year has the Dominion produced as much gold as during 1932, and in addition to the larger output by the well-established companies several new gold mines have reached the production stage and intensive search in likely looking areas gives promise that various additional properties will be producing gold before the end of another year.

GOLD - Under present conditions it is a fortunate circumstance that Canada can turn to a natural resource which commands a premium in many world markets. The increased activity in gold mining offsets in no small measure the slowing up in other branches of industry, providing labour with steady wages and offering a market for a

great variety of manufactured goods. Gold production from all sources in Canada amounted in 1932 to 3,055,168 fine ounces worth \$63,156,000 and in addition premiums paid to the gold mining companies on account of the present exchange situation totalled \$6,103,000. This 1932 output was 15.4 per cent greater than last year, 65 per cent over that of 5 years ago and 142 per cent in excess of the production ten years ago.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD BY PROVINCES, 1931 - 1932.

Provinces	1931			1932			Per cent of total
	Fine ounces	\$	Fine ounces	\$			
Nova Scotia	460	9,509	914	18,894			0.03
Quebec	300,075	6,203,101	411,247	8,501,230			13.46
Ontario	2,085,814	43,117,600	2,280,442	47,140,918			74.65
Manitoba	102,969	2,128,558	119,379	2,467,783			3.91
Alberta	195	4,031	87	1,798			..
British Columbia	160,069	3,308,920	202,351	4,182,966			6.62
Yukon	44,310	915,969	40,748	842,336			1.33
CANADA	2,693,892	55,687,688	3,055,168	63,155,925			100.00

With nearly three-quarters of the total output for the Dominion, Ontario continues to be the premier gold producing province and the Lake Shore mine of the Kirkland Lake area the largest individual producer; the Hollinger mine in the Porcupine district is the second largest and the Horne mine, primarily a copper mine, in the province of Quebec is third. Teck-Hughes, McIntyre and Dome follow in the order named and there are many other properties which steadily add their quota and help to make up the magnificent total.

In the province of Quebec, in addition to the Horne, the Siscoe and Granada produced steadily during the year. The mill of the O'Brien-Cadillac began operations during the autumn. The Beattie gold mines operated jointly by the Nipissing Mining Company of Cobalt and Ventures Ltd., proceeded with the erection of a 600 ton mill; the Treadwell-Yukon constructed a test milling plant for treating development ore in their Bussiere property in the Pascalis district, and other likely looking prospects are under development.

Manitoba output increased 15 per cent over 1931. Gold contained in blister copper made by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company accounted for the larger part, the other two sources being the Central Manitoba and the San Antonio, the latter property coming into production in May. The Premier mine is still the largest producer in British Columbia, the Pioneer, second in size of output, showed an increase over last year. In addition, reports were received from the Bralorne and Reno and several smaller producers shipped to the Trail smelter. Placer gold production of the Yukon Territory was less than in 1932.

SILVER - The old Cobalt camp in Ontario and the Sullivan mine of British Columbia are still Canada's chief sources of silver. Production from all sources during the year totalled 18,333,838 fine ounces worth \$5,812,022. Of this total, Ontario mines accounted for 35 per cent, British Columbia 39 per cent, the Mayo camp of the Yukon Territory 16 per cent and the remainder was principally recovered from the copper-gold and auriferous quartz mines of Manitoba and Quebec. It is of great interest, however, to record a production of silver from the Eldorado silver-radium mines of the Great Bear Lake area in the Northwest Territories. High-grade silver ore was shipped from this district to the Trail smelter during the past summer. The average price of silver in New York showed little change from that in 1931 but owing to the exchange situation, the Canadian miner was able to realize a higher average price for this metal during 1932 than in the previous year.

COPPER - Great tribute must be paid to the Canadian copper producers during 1932, who have been able to carry on in the face of one of the worst situations that has ever prevailed in mining history. Production during the year totalled 240,876,246 pounds worth \$14,746,000 as compared with the 1931 output of 292,304,390 pounds which was valued at \$24,114,065, a decrease of only 18 per cent in quantity but 39 per cent in value. The Granby and Britannia mines in British Columbia operated continuously, though the latter at reduced capacity. In Manitoba the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company operated the Flin Flon mine steadily, and the Sherritt Gordon mine found it necessary to close down in June to await an improvement in copper prices. Ontario copper production was somewhat lower than in 1931, and Quebec output was also reduced. The Sudbury nickel-copper ores were the only source of copper in Ontario, and the Noranda mine is the principal producer in Quebec though the Rustis property in the Eastern Townships operated continuously. The latter mine and the Britannia in British Columbia shipped iron pyrites concentrates which are recovered by selective flotation in milling.

In June of this year the United States government instituted a duty of 4 cents per pound on foreign copper which had a deterrent effect on the output of the Canadian metal. At the Imperial Economic Conference held in Ottawa during the past summer, it was recommended that the British Government place a duty of 2 pence per pound on copper produced outside the British Empire provided the Empire producers are able or willing to offer copper on first sale in the United Kingdom at prices not exceeding the world prices and in quantities sufficient to supply the requirements of the United Kingdom consumers. This duty has not yet been brought into effect but Great Britain is showing every tendency to use Empire copper.

Mr. J. Y. Murdoch, President of Noranda Mines Limited, was quoted in the press as having made the following statement in an address before the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy: "The present world consumption of copper is about 65,000 long tons per month and the present world capacity 290,000 long tons per month, but of Canada's capacity it is estimated that 194,000 short tons annually can be produced at a cost of five cents per pound or less. Canada can produce about one-quarter of the copper producible at the five cent figure or under; Mexico, South America and Africa making up the balance." These convincing facts place Canada in an enviable position even under the existing conditions.

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.

Lead at 256,343,996 pounds decreased 4 per cent from 1931 and zinc at 171,747,600 pounds was 27 per cent lower than in the previous year.

In addition to these metals Canada recorded a production of platinum, palladium, and other metals of this group, cobalt, cadmium, arsenic and bismuth, the aggregate value of which totalled nearly three millions of dollars. It should also be recorded that during the year a metallurgical plant has been built at Port Hope, Ontario, to recover radium from the ores of the Great Bear Lake district and which will be producing early in 1933.

FUELS - Coal production at 11,786,580 tons worth \$37,441,000 showed a reduction of only 3.7 per cent from the previous year. Output from Nova Scotia mines was less by 17 per cent; New Brunswick's output was greater by 13 per cent; Saskatchewan's increase totalled 28 per cent; output from Alberta was larger by 9 per cent, and British Columbia showed a decrease of 12 per cent. Manitoba produced 3,300 tons as against 1,306 in the previous year and the Yukon about 800 tons. Although the total Canadian output was less than in the previous year progress continued along the lines of 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.

During the first eleven months of 1932, 10,779,792 short tons of coal were imported as against 12,506,644 short tons during the first eleven months of 1931 and exports totalled 254,977 short tons as compared with 317,446 short tons during the corresponding period of 1931. Anthracite imports totalled 2,918,879 . . .

short tons during the period January to November inclusive of which 1,545,026 short tons came from the United States, 1,328,294 short tons came from Great Britain, 44,909 tons from Germany and 650 tons from Belgium. During the corresponding period of 1931, the anthracite imports were as follows:- from the United States, 2,067,768 short tons, Great Britain 865,144; Germany, 60,762; French East Indies, 4,592.

IMPORTS OF ANTHRACITE COAL INTO CANADA, BY MONTHS, FROM THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY, 1931-1932.
(Short tons)

Months	From United States		From Great Britain		From Germany	
	1931	1932	1931	1932	1931	1932
January	239,420	142,095	5,699	15,903	...	...
February	243,893	119,495	3,852	8,916	...	...
March	163,442	214,150	12,797	8,103	...	...
April	106,362	122,000	9,142	57,029	...	...
May	209,894	150,802	142,911	170,967	...	...
June	188,067	100,816	145,359	146,657	14,731	5,693
July	194,379	97,620	135,868	213,835	4,414	7,073
August	129,912	142,135	88,536	196,828	12,406	...
September ...	164,648	126,697	100,514	171,444	15,962	6,157
October	214,001	203,189	134,852	140,916	13,249	6,720
November	213,750	126,027	85,614	197,696	...	19,266
December	168,656	...	11,220	...	...	...
TOTAL	2,236,423	1,545,026 ^(x)	876,364	1,328,294 ^(x)	60,762	44,909

(x) 11 months.

Imports of bituminous coal during the first eleven months of 1932 totalled 7,858,484 short tons as compared with 9,502,689 short tons during the corresponding period of 1931.

IMPORTS OF BITUMINOUS COAL INTO CANADA FROM THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1931 - 1932.
(Short tons)

Months	From United States		From Great Britain	
	1931	1932	1931	1932
January	546,241	471,155	22	...
February	570,975	376,126	11,026	2,722
March	635,130	483,718	2,765	5,328
April	421,786	357,788	25	5,530
May	829,586	664,478	8,525	53,605
June	844,604	671,034	5,657	34,391
July	899,395	703,739	11,156	32,187
August	1,252,405	818,376	14,932	40,674
September	1,210,754	966,643	15,010	25,290
October	1,090,565	949,388	22,564	31,425
November	1,095,040	1,047,474	14,526	117,411
December	828,501	...	16,090	...
TOTAL	10,224,982	7,509,919 ^(x)	122,298	348,563 ^(x)

(x) 11 months

Natural gas production totalled 23,654,600 thousand cubic feet, 8.6 per cent under the 1931 output, wells in Alberta accounting for 69 per cent of the total Canadian production. Crude petroleum production totalled 1,050,300 barrels worth \$2,891,000, a drop of 31 per cent from the previous year. Alberta's wells yielded 913,000 barrels, Ontario's wells produced 131,000 barrels, and wells in New Brunswick 6,300 barrels.

OTHER NON-METALLIC MINERALS - Asbestos output at 118,407 tons was considerably lower than in 1931 and gypsum production was also much less. Salt production was 2 per cent greater than last year and it should be noted that the province of Manitoba has now entered the lists as a producer of salt in commercial quantities. Sulphur production which is computed as the sulphur in pyrties shipped and in sulphuric acid made showed a slight improvement over the preceding year. The remainder included feldspar, graphite, magnesite, mica, talc, soapstone, sodium sulphate and several other non-metallic minerals.

CLAY PRODUCTS AND OTHER STRUCTURAL MATERIALS - Reflecting the depression in building and other construction work, the production of clay products was estimated at \$4,093,000 as compared with \$7,841,288 in 1931. Cement output was less for the same reason, sales amounting to 4,555,261 barrels worth \$6,997,000. The value of stone and sand and gravel produced was estimated at \$9,500,000 as against \$17,726,349. The drop in lime production was not as great as in the other commodities in this group.

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OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, 1932, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES
FOR 1931.

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		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<u>METALS</u>					
Gold	fine oz.	2,695,892	55,687,888	3,055,188	63,156,000
Silver	fine oz.	20,562,247	6,141,943	18,533,838	5,818,000
Nickel	lb.	65,666,320	15,267,453	29,274,871	6,987,000
Copper	lb.	292,304,390	24,114,065	240,876,246	14,746,000
Lead	lb.	267,342,482	7,260,183	256,343,996	5,420,000
Zinc	lb.	237,245,451	6,059,249	171,747,600	4,112,000
Other metals	-	...	3,993,858	...	2,894,000
Total Metals	-	...	118,524,439	...	103,133,000
<u>NON-METALS</u>					
<u>Fuels</u>					
Coal	tons	12,243,211	41,207,682	11,786,580	37,441,000
Natural gas	M cu.ft.	25,874,723	9,026,754	23,654,600	8,873,000
Peat	tons	1,674	7,033	...	...
Petroleum, crude	brls.	1,542,573	4,211,674	1,050,300	2,891,000
Total Fuels	-	...	54,453,143	...	49,205,000
<u>Other Non-Metals</u>					
Asbestos	tons	164,296	4,812,896	118,407	2,697,000
Feldspar	tons	18,343	186,961	5,776	71,000
Gypsum	tons	863,752	2,111,517	485,205	1,178,000
Quartz	tons	195,724	303,158	145,839	217,000
Salt	tons	259,047	1,904,149	264,674	1,951,000
Talc and soapstone	-	...	157,083	...	158,000
Other non-metals	-	...	1,417,387	...	1,102,000
Total Other Non-Metals	-	...	10,893,141	...	7,574,000
Total Fuels and Other Non-Metals ..	-	...	65,346,284	...	56,779,000
<u>CLAY PRODUCTS AND OTHER STRUCTURAL MATERIALS</u>					
Clay products (brick, tile, sewer pipe, pottery, etc.)	-	...	7,841,288	...	4,093,000
Cement	brls.	10,161,658	15,826,243	4,558,261	6,997,000
Lime	tons	344,785	2,764,415	319,945	2,199,000
Stone and sand and gravel ...	-	...	17,726,349	...	9,500,000
Total Clay Products and Other Structural Materials	-	...	44,158,295	...	22,789,000
GRAND TOTAL	-	...	228,029,018	...	182,701,000

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