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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION 1955

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Canada's mineral production in 1955 broke previous records with a valuation of \$1,778,400,000 according to a preliminary estimate prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. This is an increase of \$290 millions or 19.5 per cent over the \$1,488 millions of 1954. The leading provinces were Ontario with \$578 million; Quebec with \$352 million and Alberta with \$324 million. Petroleum retained first position with a valuation of \$303.5 million; copper moved up to second with \$239 million followed by nickel and gold with \$216 million and \$157 million respectively. Shadows were cast on the bright picture by the coal mining industry whose production continued to decline.

More than a billion dollars worth of metals were produced in 1955. The increase in volume and price made copper the leading metal with a value of \$239 millions. Nickel was valued at \$216.4 millions an increase of \$36 million. Gold production of 4.55 million troy ounces had a value of \$157.3 million. As the Canadian dollar approached parity with the United States dollar the price of gold increased. Zinc increased by 50,000 tons to reach 427,000 tons. The tonnage of lead decreased by 11.3 per cent but the firmer price held the total valuation decrease to less than 5 per cent. Silver which occurs in the lead ore was less than in 1954, amounted to 28 million ounces. The prophecies concerning iron ore are being fulfilled. In this decade the tonnage increased twelvefold to reach 17.4 million valued at \$113.4 million.

Non-metallic minerals increased 14 per cent in value to a new high of \$149 millions. The shipments of asbestos exceeded a million tons and approached \$100 million in value. More gypsum was mined and the salt was increased in the quantity of brine pumped and rock salt mined. The sulphur in pyrite and smelter gas amounted to 628,000 tons. Natural sodium sulphate was in greater demand. Barite and mica showed a downward trend. Fluorspar and nepheline syenite increased from the preceding year.

The value of mineral fuels exceeded \$410.2 millions, an increase of 16 per cent over the \$352.9 millions in 1954. The volume of crude petroleum increased to 128.8 million barrels from 96 million barrels. Alberta's output increased about 25 million barrels; Saskatchewan and Manitoba each doubled their production to exceed 11 million and 4 million barrels respectively. Oil from Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories showed only a slight change in volume. Natural gas utilized amounted to 143.7 billion cubic feet. Alberta supplied 126.7 billion cubic feet. Coal production declined to 14.6 million from 14.9 million tons and the value of the coal at the mines decreased from \$96.6 millions to \$92.2 millions.

Structural materials increased in total value to \$217.6 millions from about \$205 millions in the preceding year. Clay products which includes brick, tile, sewer pipe, etc., made from Canadian clays were valued at \$34.7 millions. Cement plants shipped 25.9 million barrels of cement worth \$64.4 million. Although this quantity was 3.4 million barrels greater than in 1954, it did not meet urgent demand of the construction trade. Lime production was up and there was an increase of nearly \$7 million in the value of sand and gravel used. The quantity and value of stone decreased from the abnormally high year of 1954 during which the Canso causeway was built. Most of the provinces indicated greater volumes of stone quarried.

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Price: 10 cents

Table 1 - VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, BY CLASSES, 1946-1955

Year	Metallies	Non-metallics	Mineral fuels	Structural materials	T O T A L
	(dollars)				
1946	290,386,425	43,792,717	102,516,888	66,120,221	502,816,251
1947	395,069,530	54,742,453	110,481,207	84,576,785	644,869,975
1948	488,151,055	67,234,304	159,736,260	105,127,246	820,248,865
1949	538,967,258	64,585,216	183,654,473	113,903,079	901,110,026
1950	617,238,340	94,721,564	201,193,957	132,296,212	1,045,450,073
1951	745,588,728	115,706,983	232,854,093	151,333,791	1,245,483,595
1952	727,904,366	125,047,050	263,582,319	168,808,618	1,285,342,353
1953	708,880,758	126,039,359	314,181,168	187,202,218	1,336,303,503
1954	799,916,306	130,523,624	352,959,465	204,982,696	1,488,382,091
1955	1,001,513,568	149,026,062	410,241,386	217,613,456	1,778,398,272

Table 2 - MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, BY PROVINCES, 1953-1955

Province	1 9 5 3		1 9 5 4		1 9 5 5	
	\$	Per cent	\$	Per cent	\$	Per cent
Newfoundland	33,780,622	2.5	42,898,033	2.9	70,317,215	4.0
Nova Scotia	67,364,408	5.0	73,450,898	4.9	67,356,081	3.8
New Brunswick	11,663,618	0.9	12,468,322	0.8	14,279,350	0.8
Quebec	251,881,781	18.8	278,818,070	18.7	352,100,900	19.8
Ontario	465,877,093	34.9	496,747,571	33.4	577,941,712	32.5
Manitoba	25,264,112	1.9	35,106,922	2.4	62,979,841	3.5
Saskatchewan	48,081,970(★)	3.6	68,216,009	4.6	83,769,427	4.7
Alberta	248,863,295	18.6	279,042,735	18.7	323,740,702	18.2
British Columbia .	158,487,812	11.9	158,630,867	10.7	188,052,793	10.6
Northwest Territories	10,300,230(★)	0.8	26,414,000	1.8	23,454,064	1.3
Yukon	14,738,562	1.1	16,588,684	1.1	14,406,187	0.8
TOTAL	1,336,303,503	100.0	1,488,382,091	100.0	1,778,398,272	100.0

(★) Excluding pitchblende products.

Table 3 - MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, BY KINDS, 1954 and 1955

	Unit of measure	1954		1955	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
<u>Metallics</u>					
Antimony	lb.	1,302,333	349,249	1,970,000	536,575
Bismuth	lb.	258,675	572,183	207,670	422,333
Cadmium	lb.	1,086,780	1,847,526	1,971,012	3,350,720
Cobalt	lb.	2,252,695	5,912,997	2,999,650	7,723,500
Columbium (Cb ₂ O ₅)	lb.	90	2,294	42	1,032
Copper	lb.	605,464,042	175,712,693	649,207,453	239,394,952
Gold	troy oz.	4,366,440	148,764,511	4,555,400	157,305,152
Indium	troy oz.	477	1,278	106,000	238,500
Iron ore	ton	7,361,598	49,666,507	17,377,252	113,385,503
Iron ingots	ton	90,562	2,910,663	116,100	4,762,000
Lead	lb.	436,990,488	58,250,831	387,948,053	55,786,929
Magnesium and calcium ..	...	...	4,101,642	...	4,657,225
Molybdenite (MoS ₂)	lb.	752,417	457,912	1,289,441	806,184
Nickel	lb.	322,557,961	180,173,392	349,161,430	216,433,694
Palladium, iridium, etc.	troy oz.	189,350	7,956,087	211,820	8,118,000
Platinum	troy oz.	154,356	12,950,469	240,000	14,715,000
Pitchblende, etc. ....	...	...	26,467,574	...	23,000,000
Selenium	lb.	323,529	1,617,645	431,000	3,009,000
Silver	troy oz.	31,117,949	25,907,870	27,901,427	24,625,797
Tantalum (Ta ₂ O ₅)	lb.	77	2,696	390	9,760
Tellurium	lb.	8,171	14,300	6,000	11,000
Tin	lb.	333,788	263,359	397,000	317,600
Titanium ore	ton	1,541	9,462	1,736	12,152
Tungsten (WO ₃)	lb.	2,170,633	5,795,781	2,282,970	6,465,638
Zinc	lb.	752,982,353	90,207,285	853,931,313	116,425,122
Total Metallics .....	...	...	799,916,306	...	1,001,513,368
<u>Non-metallics</u>					
Arsenious oxide	lb.	1,180,350	48,333	650,000	29,250
Asbestos	ton	924,116	86,409,212	1,055,266	98,690,514
Barite	ton	221,472	2,003,796	202,600	2,142,378
Diatomite	ton	4	192	-	-
Feldspar	ton	16,096	301,049	18,844	370,968
Fluorspar	ton	118,969	2,987,026	131,728	3,063,876
Graphite	ton	2,463	254,534	-	-
Grindstones	ton	-	-	10	1,500
Gypsum	ton	3,950,422	7,094,671	4,798,200	8,455,173
Iron oxides	ton	5,798	183,507	7,467	144,369
Lithia	ton	17,052	6,300	108,056	58,272
Magnesitic-dolomite and brucite ★ .....	...	...	4,394,280	...	3,859,280
Mica	lb.	1,706,770	85,139	1,186,235	75,004
Mineral waters	gal.	284,078	148,057	282,000	148,750
Nepheline syenite	ton	123,669	1,770,528	137,000	1,969,000
Peat moss	ton	99,272	3,018,622	126,100	3,322,907
Perlite	ton	-	-	-	-
Quartz	ton	1,716,151	1,574,893	1,858,879	2,006,744



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Table 3 - MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, BY KINDS, 1954 and 1955 (CONCLUDED)

Unit of measure	1954		1955		
	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	
<u>Non-metallics</u> (Concluded)					
Salt	ton	969,887	8,340,163	1,274,011	10,286,210
Silica brick	M	3,578	465,157	5,502	656,935
Soapstone and talc	ton	28,143	335,353	28,100	334,100
Sodium sulphate	ton	158,417	2,385,573	170,801	2,759,034
Sulphur	ton	532,406	4,875,969	628,261	5,560,800
Titanium dioxide	ton	38,408	3,841,270	114,800	5,091,000
Total Non-metallics .. ...	...	...	130,523,624	...	149,026,062
★ Includes some magnesium metal.					
<u>Mineral - Fuels</u>					
Coal	ton	14,913,579	96,600,266	14,578,821	92,227,211
Natural gas	M cu.ft.	120,735,214	12,482,109	143,699,000	14,457,075
Peat	ton	6	60	-	-
Petroleum, crude	bbl.	96,080,345	243,877,080	128,811,000	303,561,100
Total Fuels .....	...	...	352,959,465	...	410,245,386
<u>Structural Materials</u>					
Clay products (brick, tile, etc.) .....	...	...	32,360,098	...	34,676,067
Cement	bbl.	22,437,477	59,035,644	25,860,103	64,363,165
Lime	ton	1,214,839	14,742,149	1,303,499	15,190,328
Sand and gravel	ton	110,961,034	58,987,671	123,655,944	65,754,176
Stone	ton	32,767,925	39,857,134	26,534,209	37,629,720
Total Structural Materials .....	...	...	204,982,696	...	217,613,456
GRAND TOTAL .....	...	...	1,488,382,091	...	1,778,398,272