

1943
1942
1941
1940

Even before the war Canada was one of the leading producers of
 vital minerals and metals, and during the war its output of these war
 essentials has been steadily increased. Canada now leads the world in the
 production of asbestos, nickel and aluminum, supplies practically all of
 the nickel and 40% of the aluminum requirements of the Allies.

Since the war, Canada has concentrated on the search for minerals
 of strategic importance and allowed her production of some others (notably
 gold) to rise. The drop in total production - \$223,240,810 in 1943 as
 compared with \$288,789,672 in 1942 - is explained mainly by the lower out-
 put of gold.

Expansion in the production of the minerals essential to war
 industry has occurred in spite of the severe labor shortage. As there is
 now a fairly ample supply of aluminum, polybenzene, magnesium, tungsten,
 zinc, cadmium, lead and copper, some of these metals have been released for
 civilian manufacture. There are now only three metals, of which the main
 one is tin, for which the demand still exceeds the supply.

Canadian output of steel for 1943, 2,997,928 tons, approximately
 doubled 1939 production, 1,531,032 tons. But as local Canadian consumption
 was 2,820,000 tons, about one-third of Canadian requirements had to be im-
 ported from the United States, and strict conservation has been necessary.
 With the shift to lighter items in the production program and the completion
 of most of the industrial expansion, it has been possible to lift some of
 the steel restrictions, and six or seven controls have been relaxed.

Production in 1943 of the chief wartime minerals and metals has
 been as follows:

Year	Asbestos (tons)	Total Nickel (tons)	Refined Lead (tons)	Refined Zinc (tons)	Steel Ingots and Castings (tons)	Aluminum (tons)
1939	384,873	15,632,828	120,358	174,241	1,551,034	85,800
1940	442,803	17,552,224	120,069	182,722	2,222,789	102,300
1941	477,946	18,222,221	222,027	212,802	2,712,121	212,300
1942	452,622	18,707,110	272,800	220,800	2,121,221	222,200
1943	422,121	17,782,222	222,121	202,200	2,222,222	222,200