

PRIMARY  
PRODUCTS

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 greatly increased. Canada now leads the world in the production of asbestos, nickel and aluminum, supplying 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 slump. The drop in total production - \$523,940,810 in 1943 as compared with \$566,768,672 in 1942 - is explained mainly by the lower output 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, molybdenum, magnesium, tungsten, zinc, chrome, 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, 2,996,978 tons, approximately doubled 1939 production, 1,551,054 tons. But as total Canadian consumption was 3,620,000 tons, about one-third of Canadian requirements had to be imported 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 tons of the chief wartime minerals and metals has been as follows:

	Asbestos	Coal	Total Nickel	Refined Copper
1939.....	364,472	15,692,698	113,052	231,684
1940.....	346,805	17,566,884	122,778	261,878
1941.....	477,846	18,225,921	141,139	278,224
1942.....	438,698	18,707,110	141,616	269,200
1943.....	427,141	17,786,562	143,887	254,200

  

	Refined Lead	Refined Zinc	Pig Iron
1939.....	190,568	174,641	846,418
1940.....	220,088	185,722	1,309,099
1941.....	228,027	213,603	1,528,053
1942.....	243,800	220,800	1,975,015
1943.....	224,800	208,300	1,758,265

  

	Steel Ingots and steel castings	Ferro- alloys	Aluminum
1939.....	1,551,054	85,540	82,800
1940.....	2,253,769	149,394	109,200
1941.....	2,712,151	198,364	212,300
1942.....	3,121,361	213,636	335,800
1943.....	2,996,978	218,687	492,600