

Economic Minerals of Canada

BY

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The Dominion of Canada, comprising the northern half of a continent and exhibiting in different parts of its extent the most varied geological conditions, naturally affords many different minerals of economic value. Some of these have long been worked to a certain extent, but in late years a greatly increased development has occurred. This is best illustrated by the fact that in 1886 the value of the minerals produced in Canada amounted to \$2.23 per head of the population, while at the present time it is about \$8.90. In other words, mining is rapidly becoming one of the principal industries of the country.

The remarkable increase just alluded to, however, depends very largely upon the gold output, and particularly upon the great amount of alluvial gold that has in late years been drawn from the Klondike division in the Yukon District. Gold mining and especially the working of rich alluvial gold deposits is, from its nature, an industry that may be successfully carried on in tracts very remote from ordinary means of communication. Its prosecution attracts population and leads to permanent settlement, affording a means of opening up new regions to possession and agriculture; but more general profit to the community undoubtedly results from the systematic

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