mines in British Columbia, 530 in Nova good. Scotia, and 250 in the North-West Territories.

The copper ore produced and marketed was 63,479 tons, all of it from the mines at Capelton, Que., copper contents of which was say 5,562,000 pounds, estimated at twelve cents a pound. This quantity was forty per cent. more than that of 1887, and the price was 11 cents higher. Prospecting and development have gone on in Cape Breton (Coxheath, near Sydney), but no. Sudbury will probably very much change the figures for 1889. The exports were 1887.

The return made of fertilizers manufactured, 548 tons, by three firms, must be altogether short of the fact; there are many more makers of these goods. The materials used are apatite, bone-dust, bones, muriate and calcic sulphate.

The production of sulphuric acid in Canada last year, 8,727,000 pounds, shows an increase of 37 per cent., which is a gratifying fact. A small quantity was made from imported brimstone, but the most of it was from pyrites, of which 63,479 tons were raised during the year-more than double that of 1887.

Salt production has lessened during the twelvemonth, although the return shows a higher total value obtained over the previous year, owing to advanced prices. Still the industry languishes, the exports were only one-tenth of what they were in 1887, white we import, exclusive of what we import free for the fisheries, some 9,000,000 pounds per annum.

There appears to have been a production of 733,564 barrels of refined petroleum during the year, which represents probably 25,000,000 gallons of crude oil. The average price of crude went up from 76% cents per gal. in January to \$1.19 in April; receded to \$1.04 in September, and touched \$1.201 in December.

Asbestos has become an item of considerable importance in the table of minerals: 4,404 tons of the curious, and in former years mysterious, substance was produced, the States; the remainder went to Great Newfoundland.

increase in the figures. From the copper meadows extra good." "Culture for silos of the production of a square league, reck. deposits of Capelton, Que., silver was excellent." Potatoes alone are only "pretty oning the arable land, vineyards, pastures, obtained to an amount estimated at \$149,000. fair." This is a very favorable statement, and wood lands, with their products in Gold production amounted to 61,310 and it is to be hoped that all that it pro- quantity and value; and then, "by the ounces, valued at \$1,098,610, which is less mises will be realized. Some doubt has than last year. The yield from Nova been thrown on its accuracy; and the fact 25,000 so is the result for one league to that Scotia was among the largest for twenty is pointed to that several of the country of the whole of France.' years, but the Yukon district, British Col. papers give a less favorable view of the umbia, was much behind hand. There harvest. Bot on the whole, we may conwere some 2,000 men working at gold clude that the harvest in Quebec is pretty

QUEBEC LAW ON USURY.

A curious contention over an usurious rate of interest is reported in the Montreal papers. One Reynolds sued on a note on which the stipulated interest was ten per. cent. a week or some 550 per cent. per annum. It is admitted that the law does not limit the rate of interest; but it is contended that, in virtue of article shipments were made. The smelter at 1,062, the judge has a right to do justice, and set aside the letter of the law. Reference was made to the fact that the late doubled during 1888, as compared with Judge McDougall refused to allow more than five per cent. a month, though a greater rate had been bargained for. In a published letter this judge defended his decision in these terms: "I hold that the judge must do right and not enforce the law, [contract?] which, though agreeing of potash, sulphate of ammonia, kainite, with the letter of our written law, offend against moral principle." We must suppose that he believed he had authority to take this ground ; but if the fact be admitted, it would be easy to object to his view of justice in the case, the enforce. ment of a sixty per cent. rate of interest. There are conceivable cases in which money borrowed even on such terms would be advantageous to the borrower : if. for instance, he was making a large amount out of it or being saved from a greater evil than the payment involved. But it must be very difficult for a judge to be sure that sixty per cent. is in any given case a "just " rate.

TRUE AND FALSE STATISTICS.

Statistics as a science has been defined as that which has to do with the collection and classification of facts. 8 The statistics of any country, or of any class or department in a country, include particularly such facts as can be stated in numbers or in tables of numbers or in classified arrangement of some sort. To make statistics reliable, however, it is needful that the data may naturally expect them to be as accuon which they are to be founded shall be collected with care and accuracy. This being done, it is desirable that they be classiof a probable value of \$255,000 at the fied without error and in a way that shall There was 3,612 tons shipped to best present their results in a convenient way. Not only this, we conceive, but there Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, and is necessary to the compilation of statistics upon a comprehensive scale broad common -In Quebec, the Department of Agricul- unreflecting aptness in arithmetical calcuresult of the harvest. Wheat, barley, rye, to conclusions either as characterized Van-

simple rule of three," he said, "as I is to

The English agriculturist, Arthur Young, sought to ascertain the proportions of meadow land, mountains, and the like, in France, by cutting up a map by lines following these features of the surface, and weighing the parts.

In 1790 Lavoisier, distinguished in science, and for this reason consulted by the national assembly upon a question of imposts, found no existing data that applied to the internal resources of the country, until he himself supplied them, by a method that is now altogether neglected in statistical researches. He proposes to ascertain the number of ploughs in the country, and from this to calculate the quantities, production, and consumption of agricultural crops.

Such left-handed methods reminds us of the German who, for the want of a knowledge of perspective, when he wanted to represent a rooster behind the house, made the rooster bigger than the house.

In a paper by Dr. Franklin B. Hough, read a few years ago before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. he made some interesting suggestions upon the Methods of Statistics and illustrated how not to do it " by some amusing anecdotes. Dr. Hough declares that the device of sending out circulars to persons at random, or to persons supposed to have the information desired, brings replies containing statistics of every grade of value, from good to good for-nothing. He relates that many years ago, a "distinguished statistician" published, with great apparent precision, the yield of potatoes in France. There had been no official inventory taken ; but when one came to be made, some time afterwards, it was found that this deduction had been obtained by multiplying the yield of a single commune by 37,000, the number of communes in France.

Taking first the non-official statistics collected and published by private enterprise, for the information of particular trades or professions, or for use by the general public; their reputation and success depending wholly upon their accuracy, and being brought to the test of local and personal knowledge every day and everywhere, we rate as they can be made. In this class, we may include directories, trade and market reports, financial transactions, and the current commercial statistics generally.

As to inquiries undertaken by authority of government, either for the intelligent discharge of its own functions, or for gen' eral information, the good of its citizens, sense and business perception; not mere and the advancement of knowledge among mankind. _.It may, in general, be remarked ture has published a glowing picture of the lation. Certainly not such rough jumping that nothing can be properly done, in the machinery of government, without leaving peas, buckwheat, and root crops are all put bau, the famed military engineer of France, its record. If money or property is received, down as "good"; hay and oats "very who, wishing to know, about 1705, the agri- there is an entry; if a payment is made, or good?' In yield, 20 to 30 bushels an acre cultural production of France and the re- if property issued, there is also an entry, are claimed for wheat, 30 to 40 for oats, 20 venue, it would yield, resorted to the fol- and a receipt to prove it. In short, the to 25 for buckwheat. "Grass plentiful; lowing method: He took an exact account whole theory of our government involves the necessity of a reco transaction ; and it is o intentional fraud, or g avoidable accident, that public act cannot be records.

A record, to be 'trus made at the time of tra all the facts as to time, s or other points of state mind. Nothing should memory, and for record season. It should be understood, and may o assisted by tabular ari

The summaries of t lished by the governm with few exceptions, fidence, as far as they done by authority, or tice of government a

As to graphic stat paper approves of ho bars or lines, measured for simple comparison he warns us that "hay points in reference to upon a true principle the subject without some that are false. larly, such as attempt tive quantities by con circular or squares. cases, no means of. j they are very apt to are intended to instru

The same objection made against simila for, "although they their contents being cubes of similar lin readily see the diffe better, in such case prisms of the same in length to the qua resent."

INSURANCE ON

Some time ago ce United States, belie charged by insurance of drugs were excess gists' Mutual Insur abnormal losses of t stocks have operated success of the new v made a vigorous sta was found that very received from the tra that looked more fa than others of their l to the other extreme on their prohibited the unprecedented lo on these risks. It Druggists' Mutual w improving the chara that a lower rate by be the result. The the case. Stock cor he rates, and redu stocks, and unless th couragement to th future than in the

little prospect of re Paint, and Dridg Rep