definite standard for valuing the varying and various products of the metal mining industries of the country is that herein adopted, viz., the final value of their metallic contents at the average market price for the year.

This reduces them to a common datum line for the purposes of this general table, and results in such uniformity of statement that the figures are reasonably comparable from year to year, in illustration of the fluctuation and growth of the different industries.

The non-metallic minerals having a tangible use or value as individual minerals are put down at the average spot value for cash.

While this plan, of course, results in some discrepancies, it is adopted as the best attainable method for the purposes of this general statement, which is practically an advance presentation of the mineral industry as a whole.

The detailed presentation of the particulars of the various subordinate industries from other standpoints is reserved for the annual reports of the Mines Section.

The total production of pig iron in Canada in 1903, from Canadian and imported ores amounted to 297,885 tons, valued at $3,742,710, of which it is estimated 42,052 tons, valued at $707,838 should be attributed to Canadian ore and 255,833 tons, valued at $3,034,872 to the ore imported.

The value of the total production reported for 18 years past has been as follows:

1886	$10,221,255	1895	$20,648,964
1887	11,321,331	1896	22,584,513
1888	12,518,894	1897	28,661,430
1889	14,013,913	1898	38,697,021
1890	16,763,353	1899	49,584,027
1891	18,976,616	1900	64,618,268
1892	16,628,417	1901	66,339,158
1893	20,035 082	1902	63,885,999
1894	19,931,158	1903	63,226,510

The remarkable increase in the period from 1898 to 1900, inclusive, was due to the gold discoveries in the Yukon.

The main feature presented by the mineral industry of Canada as a whole consists in the decrease in the grand total of production of a little over 1 per cent. in comparison with the figures for 1902. A comparison of the items for the two years shows the reason for this falling off. The shrinkage in the production of the Yukon placer gold-fields accounts for $2,250,000 of the total diminution of over $2,500,000 in the gold output of the country. This is augmented by over $1,000,000 decrease in the values of the output credited to others of the metallic class, pig iron, silver, lead and nickel. To offset this the copper, iron-ore and zinc industries exhibit increases, aggregating nearly $1,500,000, leaving a minus amount of a little over $2,000,000, against the metallic class as a whole, equivalent to nearly 6 per cent.

Advances were shown in several of the non-metallic class, notably in coal and coke, limestone, mica, salt, cement, and in some of the clay products. The total growth in all the non-metallics showing increases amounted to nearly $2,000,000, the advance in the coal and coke output accounting for over $1,600,000 of this. As against these non-metallic industries showing increases, decreases are exhibited in the values of the production in asbestos, natural gas, petroleum and a number of others, aggregating about $500,000, leaving a net gain in this class of somewhat under $1,500,000, or a little over 5 per cent. to offset the above mentioned falling off in the metallic class, the final difference in the grand totals for the two years amounting to nearly $660,000, or a proportional decrease of close on 1 per cent.

Decreases, both in quantities and values, have been the chief characteristic of the leading metallic industries, with the notable exceptions of copper and nickel. In the latter case, however, the considerable increase in the output has been more than offset by the lower valuation which has been given to the metal following the drop in the average market price for the year. The increase in the copper output was, on the other hand, considerably enhanced by the higher average market price of the metal. It is interesting to note also that with regard to pig iron, lead and silver, higher market prices modified the heavy falling away in these items. The whole of the group classed as metallic, shows a decrease of 5.8 per cent.

In the non-metallic class the more important contributors exhibit substantial increases in quantities, but lower prices reversed the effect in the case of asbestos and lessened the advantage gained in the case of coal and cement, coke only showing a slight gain. In the grand totals of the non-metallic class the figures for structural materials and clay products show a slight increase of 1.5 per cent., all other nôn-metallics being credited with an advance of over 6.6 per cent.

The relative importance of the different mineral industries contributing to the grand total will be apparent from an inspection of the above table, in which the figures account for all but about five per cent. of the aggregate. As usual, gold, together with coal and coke, constitute Canada's most valuable mineral assets, gold forming 29.8 and coal 27.9 per cent. of the value of the whole mineral output of the country. To the metallic class as a whole must be credited 53.31 per cent. of the mineral output, the structural material division contributing 13.15 per cent., and the other non-metallic products a little over one-third, or 33.53 per cent.

The per capita value of the total mineral products for 1903 was $11.29, as compared with $2.23 in 1886, the first year for which figures are available.

Gold.—A decrease of $2,500,000 is shown, of which $2,250,000 is to be ascribed to the decreased output from the Yukon district. The Yukon output for the year, $12,500,000, is based on the receipts of Canadian Yukon gold at the United States Mint at San Francisco and other receiving offices. The total from other districts was $6,584,490.

The contributors to the total, as formerly, were Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Yukon Territory and British Columbia.

Silver.—Silver production, according to present indications, shows a considerable decrease, over a million ounces, compared with last year's output. Over