

advance the advantages of this industry within the Dominion.

### MINERAL PRODUCTION OF QUEBEC.

A report upon the mines and minerals of Quebec for 1898 has been issued by the Department of Colonization and Mines of the province. It is prepared by Mr. Obalski, the inspector of mines. The aggregate value of the metals and minerals produced during the year is placed at \$1,678,387, which includes \$600,000 of bricks produced and \$140,000 of lime. This statement is certainly a disappointing one, for it does not appear possible that the mineral production of the whole province for a whole year can be less than a million and three-quarters of dollars. The Quebec Mining Association, at its meeting a year ago, placed the mineral output of Quebec in 1897 at \$2,094,000, and surely the production cannot have gone back 22 per cent. in one year. Imperfect information is at once suggested by so small a total; and indeed the report refers to the difficulty of obtaining accurate information as to output. Bricks are the largest item in the whole list, 120 millions having been made, at an estimated value of \$600,000, but there is neither a statement nor an estimate of the quantity of building stone raised, which must reach a round amount. Nor is mineral water included in the list—though Radnor and other mineral waters are plentifully produced—for the same reason, viz., that sufficient information cannot be obtained. The following table of production and value during 1898 is given:

	Quantities produced or utilized.	Gross value of ore shipped or utilized.
Charcoal pig iron (long tons) .....	5,761	\$ 116,154
Bog iron ore, do. ....	13,363	37,927
Magnetic do. ....	22	66
Calcined ochre (tons of 2,000 lbs.) ..	1,310	13,100
Chrome iron (long tons) .....	1,804	25,000
Low grade copper ore, do. ....	35,686	143,884
Blende and galena ore, do. ....	1,300	21,900
Gold (ounces).....	370	6,500
Asbestos (tons of 2,000 lbs.) .....	15,893	496,340
Asbestic (tons of 2,000 lbs.) .....	7,122	14,916
Prepared graphite (tons of 2,000 lbs.) ..	85	8,500
Phosphate (tons of 2,000 lbs.).....	870	5,000
Mica (thumb trimmed) tons of 2,000 lbs. ....	275	81,000
Feldspar (tons of 2,000 lbs.) .....	2,000	5,000
Sulphate of Baryta (tons of 2,000 lbs.) .....	55	275
Slate (tons of 2,000 lbs.) .....	3,432	37,374
Flag stones (tons of 2,000 lbs.) ....	946	3,580
Cement (barrels) .....	20,000	32,000
Lime, bushels.....	1,000,000	140,000
Bricks, thousands; the same quantities as last year, approximately ..	120,000,000	600,000
Building stones .....	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	\$1,678,387

The large output of asbestos, and the small production, compared with former years, of phosphate of lime, are items which at once challenge attention. Mica is noteworthy, too, in this connection, for 250 men are now employed in the mica industry. But no iron mine was worked during the year, and the industry is represented by the Radnor and Drummondville forges, whose production fell off from 9,892 tons, in 1897, to 5,453 tons of charcoal pig, the ore treated being 22,187 tons and 14,966 tons in 1897 and 1898, respectively. The magnetite mine at Leeds and the hematite mine at Sainte Helene were both visited, but nothing, save the getting out of test samples at the former place, was done at either. The production of chrome iron ore in the province grew from 915 tons in 1894 to 2,887 tons in 1895, but fell off again and last year was 1,805 tons.

Very little was done in gold production on the Chaudiere or elsewhere in Beauce, and but trifling production of silver and lead at Calumet Island and Lake Temiscamingue. But in copper there was a fair degree of activity, the copper mines of the Capelton district having been worked throughout the year with very fair success. In 1898, the output amounted to 85,686 gross tons of ore of low grade in copper, of which a third was treated for sulphuric acid, while the remainder was shipped to the United States.

A good deal of attention is devoted in the report to petroleum, although it does not appear in the statistical list. There has been, it appears, a difference between the Department and the Petroleum Oil Trust, as to the privileges to which the trust was entitled, and because of this the manager declined to give the information desired about production in the Gaspé district, which does not reflect much credit on the Trust Company. Much work has been done—not all of it in 1898 however—and 93 wells are bored to depths varying from 1,600 to 3,600 feet. In some of these oil flowed naturally; others needed to be pumped. At one flowing well, before tanks could be made ready 1,000 barrels of oil was lost, but tanks are now provided. There is oil in the Gaspé district, certainly; what the Oil Trust Company is endeavoring to decide is whether it exists in paying quantities.

### SHIPBUILDING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

From various sources it is learned that unusual activity characterizes the shipbuilding industry in Nova Scotia this spring, or rather perhaps we should say Western Nova Scotia. There were two vessels launched lately at Shelburne, says the Maritime Merchant, and at Mahone Bay, in an adjoining county, there are four vessels on the stocks. We apprehend that none of these are large vessels, but rather of the fishing-schooner class. We have not yet heard of a like degree of activity in Parrsboro, or Maitland, where the larger ships are mostly built. Mahone Bay has at present about twenty-five vessels engaged in deep sea fishing, and if her fleet keeps increasing at this rate she will soon rival Lunenburg. In the latter town both shipyards are said to be hurrying work, and have about 100 men employed in order that they may get the vessels complete on contract time. Particulars are given by the Lunenburg Progress, which mentions a dozen new sail to be added to the fishing fleet of that county: "Young's yard here has two almost ready for launching, and Smith's one. Weagle & Naugler, of Conquerall, will launch two this week, as will Norman Rafuse. Leary, of Summerside, will soon launch two. [Both these places are in Lunenburg county.] Next week, Jacob Weagle will launch one. One at Mullock's Cove, being built by A. Conrad, will soon be ready. John Zwicker and Henry Schnare each have two almost ready for the water."

### MUNICIPAL STATISTICS OF MANITOBA.

A good deal of interesting information is to be found in the return made to the Manitoba Legislature containing statistics concerning the municipalities in that province for the year 1898. The total population of the province, according to this return, is 229,881, being an increase of 77,875, or more than one-third, in seven years. The number of resident farmers is 83,450 and the total population, rural municipalities, unorganized districts, etc., 161,635; while that of the cities, towns and villages, is 68,246.

The number of acres under cultivation in Manitoba is