

A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

MR. H. MORTIMER LAMB, secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute, in his paper "On the Advisability of the Establishment of a Federal Department of Mines," presented at the last annual meeting of that institution, gave an interesting summary of the history of the Geological Survey of Canada in its relation to the mining industry. The efforts to bring about the establishment of the Geological Survey, Mr. Lamb showed, date back as far as 1832, but it was not until ten years later that Mr. W. E. Logan (afterwards Sir Wm. Logan) was appointed geologist, giving his services gratuitously for several months, the actual institution of the Survey taking place about May 1, 1843. After nearly seventeen years of zealous and invaluable work Sir Wm. Logan resigned the directorship of the Survey and was succeeded in 1869, by Mr. (afterwards Dr.) A. R. C. Selwyn. For nearly 26 years Dr. Selwyn directed the work of the Survey, resigning in the beginning of 1895, by which time much more attention was being given to mining developments than during the greater part of that gentleman's directorship. Dr. George M. Dawson, already distinguished for his splendid and particularly useful work in British Columbia and Yukon, succeeded Dr. Selwyn. From the time of Dr. Dawson's greatly deplored death in March, 1901, until a few months ago, the duties of director devolved upon Dr. Robert Bell. After narrating the circumstances attendant upon the establishment in 1902 of the Mines Branch of the Department of the Interior and showing what it was suggested its functions should be, Mr. Lamb submitted the following:

CONCLUSIONS.

This historical survey brings us down to the present time, and to review the economic work accomplished by the Geological Survey in a few words it may be said that practically all the information which we possess concerning the mineral resources of the Dominion has been collected by the officers of the Survey, with the exception of that which we owe to the Provincial Mining Bureaus of British Columbia and Ontario, and to the Mines Branch of the Department of the Interior, all of which have been established within the last few years. But while the Survey has been of immense value in the development of the country, the establishment of a separate Mines Branch in the Department of the Interior may be held to indicate that in the opinion of the mining men of Canada the Survey has not in recent years, on its strictly economic side, kept pace with the growing requirements of the mining industry, and that the immense mass of information which it has collected has not been reduced to a sufficiently accessible form.

In this connection, however, it must be noted, that with the exception of experimental metallurgy, every line of work which is set forth as within the purview of the Mines branch, has been already taken up or is now being prosecuted by the Geological Survey of

Canada. In making this statement it must be clearly understood that there is no intention, in what has been said, to minimise the value of the work accomplished by the Mines Branch of the Department of the Interior since its inauguration, but merely to point out that, while by means of a large special grant placed at its disposal the Mines Branch has been able to produce a number of reports of marked economic value, the production of such reports does not demand the existence of such a separate bureau. Given a properly reconstructed Geological Survey, of which the present Mines Branch might form part, it could employ the same extra grant with at least equal economic efficiency.

Such work of the highest quality, is being carried out on an enormous scale by the Geological Survey of the United States, which working in the territory immediately south of us, has to deal with conditions which resemble very closely those obtaining in Canada at the present time. Moreover, the work done by that Survey has so emphatically commended itself to the mining interests in the neighbouring republic that the government have repeatedly extended the scope of the survey and greatly increased the sum appropriated for its use.

As a matter of fact, our mining community in Canada, while admitting that the Geological Survey of Canada has accomplished an immense amount of good work in times past, points to the immense increase in the volume and value of the mineral output of Canada as shown by the following figures:

TABLE SHOWING MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

	Value.
1871	\$ 5,044,830
1886	10,221,255
1887	11,321,331
1888	12,518,894
1889	14,013,913
1890	16,763,353
1891	18,698,953
1892	16,628,417
1893	20,035,082
1894	19,931,158
1895	20,648,964
1896	22,584,513
1897	28,661,430
1898	38,697,021
1899	49,584,027
1900	64,618,268
1901	66,339,158
1902	63,865,797
1903	62,532,210
1904	60,343,165

It also points out the present position which the product of the mine holds, as compared with the agricultural exports of the Dominion, as shown by the following figures: