

REMARKS.

In studying the figures given in the above general table, many interesting and gratifying features will be noticed. In the grand total an increase is shown of over \$9,000,000 or nearly 32 per cent as compared with 1897. This is a still larger proportional increase than that of 1897 over 1896 which amounted to nearly 27 per cent. Compared with 1886, the first year for which statistics were issued, we find an increase in the value of mineral products in thirteen years of nearly 270 per cent. When it is remembered that during the same period the increase in the population has been only about 14 per cent, it will be evident that the proportional importance of the mining industry to the country is very much greater than it was at the beginning of the period dealt with. Thus the per capita value of the mineral production of the country has increased from about \$2.20 to \$7.20.

Whilst these large increases of late years have of course been partly due to the discovery and working of the rich gold-placers of the Yukon, other important mineral industries have also contributed to them, and there is every reason to expect a continued rapid growth in many of them for some years to come, especially as the province of British Columbia continues to develop.

The following table shows the principal changes in the production and values for the year 1898 as compared with the revised figures for 1897.

PRODUCT.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
<i>Metallic:—</i>				
Copper	34.96	.....	43.81	.....
Gold .....	.....	.....	127.31	.....
Iron Ore.....	14.70	.....	17.05	.....
Lead .....	.....	18.20	.....	13.63
Nickel.....	38.02	.....	30.14	.....
Silver.....	.....	20.23	.....	22.27
<i>Non-Metallic:—</i>				
Asbestos and As- bestic.....	.....	21.87	9.17	.....
Coal	10.21	.....	12.66	.....
Gypsum.....	.....	8.52	.....	5.76
Natural Gas.....	.....	.....	.....	1.80
Petroleum.....	.....	1.28	.....	3.00
Cement.....	21.93	.....	44.43	.....

It will be observed that most of the large increase in the total is to be credited to the metals, gold, copper, nickel, the non-metallic materials, coal, asbestos and cement also contributing. Beginning with the most important, the increases in these products were as follows, viz.:—Gold, about \$7,673,000; coal, over \$924,000; copper, nearly \$658,000;