investigation of Canada's iron ore deposits was first set on foot by the present Director of the Mines Branch, Dr. Eugene Haanel, at that time Superintendent of Mines for Canada. From that time up to the present this work has been carried on continuously under his direction, and bulletins and maps covering different iron mines and iron mining districts have been issued to the public as the work progressed.

The Mines Branch, in its investigations, has given particular attention to the magnetometric surveying and mapping of deposits of magnetite. This has been done for several reasons: (1), because it was desired to introduce a method for the investigation of magnetic ore deposits that had been found particularly useful in a country like Sweden, but which was practically unknown in Canada; (2), because by this method definite information concerning the extent and shape, and hence, in some degree, the value of our numerous known deposits of magnetite could be more readily obtained than in any other way; (3), because the maps made in the course of these surveys would be of considerable service as guides in the exploration and development of such of the deposits as seemed worthy of further attention; and (4), because work of this kind would have no tendency to overlap but would be entirely supplementary to that of other investigators. As a result of this magnetometric work much definite knowledge concerning our magnetite deposits has been secured, and erroneous impressions regarding the continuity and extent of some of them corrected.

Copies of the magnetometric and topographical maps made in the course of this work, a list of which will be found in the table of contents, accompany this report.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Discovery of iron ore in Canada is recorded as early as 1667; and in 1733 there was already one forge in operation. This earliest plant was succeeded in 1737 by a group of forges at Three Rivers, Quebec, which remained in active operation almost continuously until 1882, being at that time the oldest active iron producers in America. A number of other small plants were erected at various points in Canada during the latter part of the eighteenth, and the earlier part of the nineteenth centuries; but the iron industry did not assume any large proportions, or commence to take on its modern form until 1896. Since then its growth has been rapid.

In the earlier days, when the iron industry was small, sufficient ore was available locally to meet all the demands of the furnaces. Since 1896, however, this condition of affairs has changed; both the production of iron ore and its consumption in blast furnaces have increased; but the latter so much more rapidly than the former that in 1916 the total production of iron ore in Canada was only equal to 15.5 per cent of the total ore smelted in Canadian blast furnaces.