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Editor:

J. C. MURRAY, B.A., B.Sc.

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THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

Most gratifying are the official statistics of Canada's mineral production for 1910. The Preliminary Report, prepared by Mr. John McLeish, Statistician of the Mines Branch, Ottawa, appeared early in March. The revised figures for the year 1909 show a total value of \$91,831,441, or \$12.82 per capita. The total for 1910 is \$105,040,958, or \$14.02 per capita. An increase of \$13,209,517, or more than 14 per cent., is certainly substantial.

Accepting Mr. McLeish's basis of valuation, we find that Ontario now produces 40.95 per cent. in value of the entire mineral output of the Dominion. British Columbia comes second with 23.37 per cent., and Nova Scotia third with 13.38 per cent. Each of the other provinces contributes less than 10 per cent.

In the list of mineral products, coal shows by far the greatest expansion during 1910, the output for the year being valued at \$29,811,750, which is greater by \$5,030,514 than the figures reported for the previous year. The next largest leap is in silver. Of this metal \$17,106,604 worth was produced in 1910, which exceeds the returns for 1909 by \$2,928,100. Nickel production has been augmented by \$1,719,433; pig iron, \$1,663,766; clay products, \$1,149,190; cement, \$1,068,513; and gold, \$842,680. For products, such as copper, asbestos, stone, gypsum, etc., increases of less than half-a-million dollars are recorded.

The most marked falling off is in the subsidized lead industry. Here a drop of \$455,107 is announced. As British Columbia produces all the lead credited to the Dominion, the direct cause of the curtailment was the destructive Slocan forest fires. The only other serious recession was in the output of petroleum. Here again the causes were beyond human control. The oil-fields of Ontario are gradually being exhausted. The 1910 production was less in value by \$171,054 than that of 1909. Two other commodities, salt and lime, show very slight drops in value. With these exceptions every mineral product shows gains for 1910. And every province, with the exception of New Brunswick, has augmented its annual production. In fact, nearly every province has had a "record" year.

It is hardly necessary to state that the outlook for the current year is even more cheerful. British Columbia's smelters, mines, and collieries are in better condition than ever. Her smelters are being enlarged, and there is good reason to believe that large iron and steel industries will soon be established on the Pacific coast. Few countries possess such a superabundance of iron ore, fuel, and flux on or near tide-water. All the essentials are there except the initiative of the organizer.