

Thus the aggregate result of the increases in the metallic products is nearly \$6,000,000, or a proportion of about 74 per cent.

An interesting result of the mining developments and discovery of 1897 is shown in the increase in the proportion of the value of the total mineral production to be credited to the metals. In 1896 these constituted about 36 per cent, whilst in 1897 this proportion was increased to nearly 49 per cent.

Turning to the non-metallic products, we find that as far as the data at present available permit of a conclusion being arrived at, the total value shows under 2 per cent of an increase over that of the previous year. The only considerable change to be noted is that given under the heading asbestos, where the quantity has more than doubled, whilst the value has fallen off almost 25 per cent. This is due to the fact that the output of the new by-product asbestic, is included. This constitutes over half the weight of the whole, but being a low priced article brings down the price per unit very much. The returns, however, show also a falling off in the prices of the usual grades of the mineral apart from the above influence.

In the important mineral coal the variation is but little. The falling off in the production of the higher priced mineral of British Columbia and the increase in that of Nova Scotia at a lower price, causing a fall in the total value. In gypsum the increase in the value is larger than that shown in the quantity. This is due to the larger proportion of the higher priced product, Plaster of Paris, included in the returns for 1897. The lower average price ruling during that year for petroleum caused the decrease in the value of this article to be much greater than that in the quantity.

The following table gives the proportional values of the different minerals in the grand total. It is interesting to note the changes in their relative position in 1897 as compared with 1896 :—

1896.		1897.	
PRODUCT.	Per cent of Total Production.	PRODUCT.	Per cent of Total Production.
Coal	31.94	Coal	25.31
Building material..	15.72	Gold	21.50
Gold	12.30	Building material..	12.50
Silver	9.50	Silver	11.54
Nickel	5.25	Copper	5.21
Petroleum	5.11	Nickel	4.86
Copper	4.52	Lead	4.85
Lead	3.20	Petroleum	3.51
Asbestos	1.90	Natural Gas	1.13
Natural Gas	1.22	Asbestos	1.13
Cement .....	.89	Cement .....	.95
Iron .....	.85	Gypsum .....	.84
Gypsum .....	.79	Coke .....	.73
Salt .....	.75	Salt .....	.66