

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, 1896.

Proportionate Value of different Mineral Products.

Product.	Contributing over 10 p.c.	Contributing between 5 and 10 p.c.	Contributing between 1 and 5 p.c.	Contributing under 1 p.c.	Total.
Coal.....	31.94				
Gold.....	12.30				
Silver.....		9.50			
Bricks (estimated).....		7.10			
Nickel.....		5.25			
Petroleum.....		5.11			
Copper.....			4.52		
Building stone (estimated).....			4.43		
Lead.....			3.20		
Lime (estimated).....			2.88		
Asbestos.....			1.90		
Salt.....			1.53		
Natural gas.....			1.22		
Gypsum.....				0.76	
Iron.....				0.65	
Sundry under 1 p.c.....				7.74	
Totals.....	44.24	26.96	19.65	9.15	100.00

From the above it will be seen that, in the year under consideration, coal is to be credited with almost a third while gold comes second at about 12 per cent. In the five to ten per cent class come silver, bricks, nickel and petroleum; whilst in the one to five per cent class we find copper, building stone, lead, lime, asbestos, salt and natural gas in the order named. Gypsum and iron contribute less than one per cent. Over 90 per cent of the total is thus accounted for under the above fifteen headings out of a total number of fifty-four minerals mentioned.

Taking the different classes of minerals we find that the metallic group contributed 35.63 per cent; the miscellaneous non-metallic 44.12 per cent; the structural materials 19.14 per cent with an allowance of 1.11 per cent for estimated value of mineral products unreturned.

In studying a comparative statement such as the tabulation given, it must be remembered that the above percentages are of the gross values which vary from year to year, not only by reason of varying amounts produced, but also on account of the fluctuations in the price. This latter factor has affected some minerals more than others. The heavy drop in the price of silver, for instance, in the past few years, has very greatly affected its place in the scale, and copper, nickel and asbestos have also suffered heavily in this respect, as can be seen by comparison of 1896 with earlier years in the main table. In order to facilitate this use of the table the features of increase and decrease have been brought out by the use of differing type as explained in the foot notes.