

The Mines Branch of the Canadian Dept. of Mines.

The article below is still another of the series which The Civilian announced some time ago, dealing with the work of the several Departments and Branches. Many of our difficulties as civil servants arise from our ignorance of one another, no less than the public's lack of knowledge and appreciation of the work of the service. If The Civilian can in any way assist in removing these stumbling blocks to progress, it feels it is engaging in a good work.

The Mines Branch is the most recently organized of the two main divisions of the Canadian Department of Mines, the other Branch the Geological Survey having been in existence since before Confederation, and it may be well at the outset to explain that this Branch is quite distinct and under quite different organization from what has been familiarly known as the Mines Branch or now more correctly, the Yukon and Mining Lands Branch of the Department of the Interior. This latter Branch is entirely administrative having control of the lease or sale of mining lands and the administration of mining law, so far as the Dominion government is concerned; while the Mines Branch, the subject of this sketch, as at present organized, is required to undertake a technical and scientific study and investigation of the mining industry and of mining districts.

In describing the functions of the Branch it will suffice to say that under the "Geology and Mines Act" of 1907, the Mines Branch was organized to take over and extend the work which Dr. Haanel, who was appointed as Director of the Branch, had already as Superintendent of Mines, initiated and carried on in the Department of the Interior since 1902.

Briefly these functions comprise:

- (1) The annual collection and publication of statistics of mining and metallurgical production in Canada and the keeping of records of mining work and development.
- (2) The detailed investigation of mining camps and mining areas with a view to determining the mode of occurrence and the extent and character of the ore bodies, etc.
- (3) The preparation of maps, plans, drawings, etc., to illustrate the work and reports of the Department.
- (4) The making of such chemical, mechanical and metallurgical investigations as are found expedient to aid the mining and metallurgical industry of the country.
- (5) The collection for the Museum of material to illustrate the mining and metallurgical industry of the country.

While the Census Branch of the Department of Agriculture every ten years collects a year's record of production of many industries, the Mines Branch makes an annual record of the country's mineral production and the day is probably not far distant when for many branches of this industry it will be expedient to obtain a monthly record.

If your curiosity impels you to enquire or your business requirements necessitate your knowing what was the gold production in Canada last year, the year before, or during any past period, the quantity of nickel obtained from our nickel mines, the tonnage of pig iron produced in blast furnaces, the quantity of coal mined, the number and value of brick made, the value of stone obtained from stone quarries, or any other record of the output of mines