must be gratifying to Canada, where an example has already been set in this particular; while the voluntary scheme for a Central Clearing House for the adjustment of postal balances and accounts may prove to be of no small service to the Dominion as well as other countries, whose desire it is to curtail the labor and expense involved in the present methods. These and other decisions of the Congress were all to the good, and throughout the deliberations Sir Charles Tupper had no difficulty in securing for the wishes of Canada the attention which her position as a postal reform entitled her. But far transcending them in importance to the British Empire was the recovery from the other powers of the perfect freedom of the United Kingdom in postal dealings with the Colonies. This is the greatest step yet taken in the direction of Imperial penny postage, and it stands to the credit of the British delegates that so important a concession was obtained at their direct instance, and without arousing the opposition of any single Power.

MINING STATISTICS.—An interesting bulletin has recently been issued as part of the mining volume of the eleventh census of the United States. The enquiry into this important field was conducted under the supervision of Richard P. Rothwell, editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, the detail collected covering every branch of statistic taking. The following excerpts from the bulletin will be of interest for comparison, when similar returns for the Dominion are officially made public. Gold is produced in extremely small quantities by a vast number of independent miners, often from remote and almost inaccessible sources. The prospector, as a rule, carefully conceals the sources whence his gold came, fearing lest others interfere with his claim. While the average annual production of each of these prospectors or miners is small, the aggregate amount is considerable; but no full or accurate statistics of this p[illegible]ion of the gold production can be obtained. Gold is produced mainly by a few large accessible mines, from which it is easy to get statistical information. The production of bullion during the year 1889 was: Gold, 1,590,869 ounces, United States coining value $32,886,744; silver, 51,354,851 ounces, United States coining value $66,396,988; total, United States coining value, $99,283,732. In gold this is nearly 28 per cent. of the world's product and in silver 41 per cent. The number of gold and silver mining "claims" or "locations,"