

In the above table the figures are given only to the nearest first decimal, so that although not quite accurate, they show the relative importance of the contributing countries sufficiently well. Whilst, however, the improvement there shown in Canada's ranking is very gratifying, it is well for us to remember that we have yet much ground to cover before we can proudly rank ourselves with the really large producers. Thus in 1898, four countries, viz: the Witwatersrand district of South Africa, (25.7 per cent.); the United States, (22.5 per cent.) and Australasia, (21.5 per cent.) are to be credited collectively with nearly 70 per cent. of the whole; Russia coming in fourth with 9 per cent. Still when we reflect that in 1886 the production of the whole of Africa, which is now over \$79,000,000, or nearly 28 per cent of the whole, was less than \$1,500,000 and that the present position of that continent is mostly due to the discovery of one small district, the chances are good for Canada with its large areas of as yet little known mineral-bearing formations.

During the period from 1890 to 1898 the world's annual production of gold increased from nearly 120.5 million dollars to over 285.75 million dollars or about 137 per cent., the increase for 1898 over 1897 being nearly 20 per cent.

Turning now to Silver, we find that Canada produced in 1898 over 2½ million dollars' worth. This was a decrease in value of over 22 per cent. as compared with 1897, although the quantity decreased but a little over 20 per cent.; a result due of course to the falling price of the metal. The only data available for the world are those for the latter year, and taking the same period as for gold, the figures are as below:

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF SILVER

	1897		1890	
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Australasia .....	8.96		6.17	
Canada .....	3.10		0.30	
United Kingdom.....	0.16		0.22	
BRITISH EMPIRE.....	—	12.22	—	6.69
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....		31.48		40.56
Mexico .....	30.14		28.98	
Bolivia .....	5.85		7.20	
Chili .....	2.62		2.96	
Peru .....	1.04		1.57	
Colombia .....	0.92		0.48	
Central America.....	0.90		1.15	
Argentina .....	0.18		0.35	
AMERICA (except U.S.A.) .....	—	41.65	—	42.69