

of particular interest to the house at the present time. In the same way this afternoon we discussed the estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

There is still another item which is of the utmost importance. I refer to the value of glass production, including pressed and blown glass and the bevelling, cutting and so on of plate glass. In 1932 the value of this production was \$8,469,895 as compared with \$12,191,752 in 1930, or a decrease of \$3,721,857. For that small industry such a reduction represents a panic. In the same category we find the value of chemical production; in 1930 this amounted to \$119,969,637, while in 1932 it had dropped to \$95,279,376, or a decrease of \$24,690,261. What about the home market? Prices are falling all the time, and with these figures it is easy to see why so many miners are unemployed.

Another important item is iron and steel and their products; this is a very large Canadian industry. We have the British Empire Steel Corporation in Cape Breton, the Algoma Steel Corporation in Ontario and other large plants, and this is a matter of interest in many provinces. In 1932 the value of this production was \$226,205,543, while in 1930 it was \$569,745,973, a decrease in 1932 of \$343,540,432. The total decrease in the value of the production of the articles I have mentioned is \$584,795,205. It is almost inconceivable that mineral production has decreased by over \$584,000,000. My hon. friends opposite can check my figures, because they may be found at page 635 of Hansard. I received them from the government, either the Department of Mines or the Department of Trade and Commerce, through the bureau of statistics.

Mr. GORDON: Would the hon. member permit a question? Does he refer to primary production or to manufactured articles?

Mr. POULIOT: The information is not detailed. I shall take the liberty of asking the minister to give me some explanation in that connection. I am ready to hear him, if he is kind enough to speak, because I asked about the value of mineral production and I received an answer about the value of iron and steel products. The last line of the information contains this expression, "decrease, \$343,540,432." If this figure concerns primary industry, all right, but I wish to know. I do not say it is all right because I am satisfied with it; I am very sorry about it, and I am sure the hon. gentleman himself is very sorry. I should like to know from him if these figures relate to primary products or to manufactured products.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

Mr. GORDON: The items we have under review at the moment have nothing whatever to do with the sale of mineral, precious or otherwise, but have to do, purely, with the scientific investigations of the Mines department, which deal with ore dressing, metallurgy and geological surveys, which are self-explanatory. Although I have no figures, nor has my department the figures to which the hon. member for Temiscouata has addressed himself, I would say that the larger figure would cover the manufactured article. While I do know the hon. member is deeply concerned with the possibility of miners being out of work, the fact is that with the exception of certain places connected with the coal mining industry of Canada, miners are not out of work. In fact, in a number of places it is very difficult to obtain the services of experienced miners who can carry on the work in the rapidly expanding precious metal mining operations of Canada. I can but repeat that it is not the function of the Department of Mines to collect and tabulate the figures to which the hon. gentleman has referred. That is a matter for the Department of Trade and Commerce. I have no doubt those figures could quite easily be determined, and if I can be of any assistance to the hon. member in getting them together I should be very glad to do so. As far as these items are concerned the Department of Mines does not engage in the sale of or advertise for the sale of the minerals, but does try to solve under the first item, the metallurgical problems with which miners are met; under the second item, the projection of geological surveys, in order that they may reach the hands of the prospectors and the mining fraternity generally, and the publication of reports. I am not prepared to go into the figures to which the hon. member has made reference, because they do not come within the compass of the activities of the Department of Mines.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank the hon. member for his courtesy. I shall not insist, therefore, but will take advantage of his generous offer to supply me with more information. I have approached the matter with an open mind, and shall be thankful to him if he is kind enough to assist me in obtaining the desired information.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): I should like to ask the minister one or two questions in connection with the vote now before the committee concerning geological surveys, and particularly about those surveys in British Columbia. There may be a general decline in the value of minerals produced throughout