

year shows a considerable falling off as compared with the first three months, the total for the half year amounts to \$133,744, as compared with \$190,244 for the whole of the previous year.

The Regina mine was closed down on 1st of April in order that a 30-stamp mill might be erected to replace the former 10-stamp mill; the new mill is, we believe, now completed. The Foley mill has been shut down pending the transfer of the property to an English syndicate. The Deloro mill in the Hastings region was destroyed by fire some months ago, but it is understood that a mill of much larger capacity will be built in its stead. During the six months a modest amount of silver was produced, whereas a year ago the production was nil.

It is so far pleasing to note that the output of iron ore in Ontario shows a marked increase over that of last year, although with the demand that exists, and the immense possibilities in production, the quantity produced is by no means satisfactory. There should be no occasion for an importation of iron ore from the United States, and we hope Canadian mines will soon supply the home demand. We append a summary of the statistics of the first six months of 1898 as compared with those of twelve months of 1897:

	1898. 6 months.	1897. 12 months.
Gold.....	\$133,744	\$190,244
Silver.....	10,632
Nickel.....	225,763	359,651
Copper.....	141,744	200,067
Iron ore.....	23,845	4,689
Pig iron.....	305,083	288,128
Totals.....	\$840,811	\$1,042,779

SOLID GROWTH.

On a strip of paper two feet long and as broad as one's two hands is a history of the growth of Canada for thirty years. This paper forms the frontispiece to the 1897 Year Book of Canada, and is entitled "A Statistical Summary of the Dominion, since the Confederation year." It contains the broad facts upon which all the minuter contents of the following 550 pages are based. And if one desires to ascertain in a general way the growth of his country he may do so readily by running his eye down these forty columns of figures.

As to the increase in area and in people, no census return properly indicates the growth in numbers of the Canadian people, so many of whom have gone to swell the population of the Northern and Northwestern States. And for the area it is to be remarked that successive additions of provinces have altered this. There are now, however, over thirty millions of acres under cultivation. Our revenue, which in 1868 stood at \$13,687,000 was last year \$37,829,000.

At Confederation there were 2,200 miles of railway in the then four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. The length of railroad in operation in the Dominion is now 16,550 miles, the earnings of which are \$52,353,000. It is worth notice, in passing, that while the small railway mileage of 1868 earned \$5,340 per mile the sixteen thousand odd miles of 1897 earned only \$3,163 per mile. So much has railway transport been cheapened.

We have been free spenders in the direction of public

works; but then Mother Nature had imposed obligations upon us in this regard. The rapids of the St. Lawrence, for instance, had to be overcome, and the Rocky Mountains had to be crossed. We spent in thirty years \$52,240,000 on canals; we, i.e., the Government, spent in the same time \$121,497,000 on railways, and \$42,350,000 on other public works.

The foreign and inland shipping of the country has of course developed, too. The foreign ships entered inward in 1868 represented 2,104,000 tons; in 1897 the tonnage was 6,091,000.

Imports in 1868 were of the value of \$73,459,000 and in 1897 of \$119,218,000. But the exports, the produce of Canada, had grown in far greater ratio; since in 1868 they were \$48,504,000 they were in 1897 no less than \$123,632,000.

The number of depositors in P. O. Savings banks, which thirty years ago was only 2,102, had grown last year to 135,737, and their savings from \$204,588 to the great sum of \$32,380,000.

Nor is the growth in the business of the chartered banks less remarkable. They had capital, \$30,289,000, and assets of \$77,872,000 in 1868; they had capital, \$61,940,000, and assets \$335,203,000 in 1897.

Probably the business of the postoffice is as good an index as can be given of the progress of a people. Where the three million people of 1868 had 3,630 post-offices, and exchanged 18,000,000 letters during the year, the six million people of 1897 had 9,191 postoffices and the number of their letters had increased to 123,000,000.

REACHING OUT FOR TRADE.

Among the Canadian manufactured goods which have established a reputation in foreign markets, are pianos. In Europe, Australia and Africa the fact that Canadians are successful manufacturers of these instruments is being each year more and more recognized. At the South African Exposition at Grahamstown several Canadian firms were represented in the display of musical instruments. It is further to be noted that the parts used in the manufacture of pianos such as key boards, sounding boards, ribs and the like, which a few years ago were imported from Europe, are now exported to Europe from the Dominion in large quantities.

The latest idea of Professor Robertson, the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, is the packing of butter in tins for the export trade. It is claimed that when wrapped in wax paper and placed in hermetically sealed tins, the butter will retain its flavor and continue good in any climate. This should prove especially valuable for the growing trade with the Orient. Recently, we understand, a number of tins of butter put up in this way have been sent from the Province of Quebec, and also from the Government Dairy stations in the Northwest Territories to the Yukon. It is stated that in France this plan of packing butter has for years been carried on with success.

Fruit merchants have been, both in the domestic and the export trade, made victims of unscrupulous dealers in the refusal of fruit after shipment has been made. A common plan is for the receiver to write the shipper after having received the fruit, that it has arrived in bad condition and awaits his further orders. Of course the idea is to secure the fruit at a very much re-