

about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  times. This result is practically due to the development of the ore deposits of Southern Kootenay in British Columbia, and especially to the opening up of the argentiferous galena mines of the Slocan district. The silver credited to Quebec represents the small proportion of that metal, amounting only to a few ounces per ton, contained in the cupriferous pyrites ores mined in the Eastern Townships. These are mostly shipped to New Jersey and used as a source of sulphur in acid making. Thus in this case the metal can be counted simply as a by-product, and during the suspension of work on the silver veins of the Thunder Bay district of Ontario the Pacific province was left as the only silver producer proper in the Dominion.

From about 1868 to 1878 the Thunder Bay district occupied a prominent position. The famous Silver Islet mine with its wonderfully rich ore, was at the zenith of its career, and from its discovery in 1868 to 1884, when it closed down, it turned out about \$2,250,000 worth of the metal. Other mines nearer Port Arthur were also worked for periods of several years about this time, but the district fell off decidedly after the first few years of prosperity, and for a time the silver production of Canada, which was practically that of this district, dropped to little or nothing. About 1885, however, several other veins were discovered south-west of Port Arthur, in the same formation and with similar ores, and the revival due to the working of these mines is evidenced in the figures for 1887 to 1893 given in the table. These were practically closed for several years, and it is only during the last two years, 1897 and 1898, that any ore has been taken from this district.

In 1898 British Columbia still contributes the great bulk of the silver values, being responsible for nearly 92 per cent., the balance being due to the operations in Quebec and to the re-opening of one of the silver mines near Port Arthur already alluded to.

#### CANADA'S POSSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE

So far we have dealt with Canada in her relationship to the rest of the world and with her present and past position as a producer of the precious metals.