in the value of the output of silver from $136,217 in 1904 to $9,284,869 in 1908, and this, mark you, is but the beginning of greater things to come.

The total imports of Canada in 1908 were valued at $298,123,792, the total exports at $261,512,159. It is estimated that there were borrowings abroad during the same period of over $200,000,000, otherwise we should have had a very stringent money market.

NEW BRANCHES.

Under our system of banking it is impossible for an institution having its own and the country's interest at heart to stand still. It is our duty not only to endeavor to keep pace with the development of the country, but to foster and encourage it by extending banking facilities to still larger radii besides affording to points in the inner circles, that have grown in importance, the facilities which they demand and that we are in a position to extend to them. Our desire to carry out such a policy accounts for the eight new branches which have been opened during the year, and for the ten additional branches which are now being established.

BANK PREMISES.

Bank Premises Account continues to grow, notwithstanding the appropriations which we make from year to year, but this is unavoidable. I can only assure you that so far as that item is concerned, it is, as it stands in our Balance Sheet, one of the most profitable of our investments. We expended during the year in the purchase of property and in the construction and fitting up of buildings the sum of $169,921.01, and we have, as you have been advised, written off from the account out of the profits of the year the sum of $69,921.01. Our policy has not been to purchase property or construct buildings improvidently, at the same time we must, in a modest way at least, provide for our requirements, but without laying ourselves open to the charge of extravagance.

BORROWINGS ABROAD.

The borrowings from or through Great Britain by the Governments, the municipalities and the railways of Canada have been enormous—one wonders where all the money comes from—will this easy condition and confidence continue? Some say not. A writer in a recent number of the Fortnightly Review draws a very gloomy picture of trade and finances in Great Britain.

There are those who say that the enormous taxes imposed by the British Government is driving capital out of the United Kingdom and, if so, we are no doubt sharing in its distribution; it behooves us, therefore, to invest that share in enterprises that will yield a substantial return to the investor. We must not enter upon new enterprises that depend entirely upon continuous borrowings from abroad; otherwise, sooner than we expect, perhaps in the not very distant future, the source of supply may dry up, and we may be left with unfinished enterprises on our hands.

AMERICAN SILVER.

The quantities of American silver in circulation throughout the Dominion, particularly in the Western Provinces, including British Columbia, estimated by some at $2,000,000, is a blot upon our fiscal system. After all silver coins are but tokens; the American silver dollar is worth in silver less than fifty cents, but it passes current in Canada for one hundred per cent. more than its value. If silver coins are to form a part of our currency, let Canada have the benefit of the seigniorage, and let us at the same time give our new citizens an opportunity to become familiar with our national emblems. The gold and silver coinage of every self-respecting nation should form an important part of its national outfit, and should be jealously guarded. It is satisfactory to know that we now have in Ottawa one of the best up-to-date and perfect Mints in the world, under the management of efficient, scientific controllers and operatives. I should like to see the machinery in more constant use manufacturing coins up to the legitimate demand for gold and silver currency. Under our present currency laws the silver coin of the country is not redeemable in gold or legal tender notes. This condition should be remedied; moreover, the old and worn currency should be withdrawn from circulation and replaced by new coins as necessity demands. American silver coins should be shipped back to their country of origin.

SHAREHOLDERS.

Our shareholders continue to increase, and now number 1,302, not a large increase over last year, it is true, but on the right side.

STAFF.

Our staff, which numbered 555 in 1908, now numbers 589.

MINING IN QUEBEC LAST YEAR.

Prospecting Being Actively Carried On—Asbestos One Of The Chief Minerals.

The summary statement of the production of the mines of the Province of Quebec for the year 1908, as given in the annual report of the superintendent of mines of the Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, is as follows, and in order, mineral, quantities shipped or used, and gross value:—

Bog iron ore, 11,628, $30,857; Calcined ochre, 1,346, $15,440; Raw ochre, 1,500, $4,500; Chrome iron, 7,564, $83,740; Copper ore, 26,598, $159,588; Asbestos, 65,156, $2,551,596; Trimmed mica, 106, $95,311; Phosphate of lime, 175, $1,610; Prepared graphite (pounds), 2,640, $165; Magnesite, 65, $520; Slates (squares), 4,335, $20,056; Flagstone (sq. yards), 4,000. $3,600; Cement (barrels), 801,695, $1,127,335; Granite (cubic yards), 30,000, $250,000; Lime (bushels), 556,000, $96,000; Tiles and pottery, $270,000; Lime stones (cubic yards), 97,710, $223,580. Total, $5,493,664.

The value of the mining products for 1908 was $5,493,664, representing the value of the raw material or after having undergone the necessary preparation to make it merchantable.

During the year there were thirteen joint stock companies incorporated with a total capital of $7,360,000. Two foreign companies with a capital of $410,000 were authorized to work in the province.

Along the North Shore experiments are being carried on under the auspices of the Federal Government, who are striving to secure direct smelting and reduction of iron by the electric furnace.

Iron metallurgy in the Province of Quebec is now controlled by the Canada Iron Corporation, Ltd., of Montreal, which has purchased the plant and business of the Canada Iron Furnace Company, Ltd., operating at Radnor and of John McDougall & Company, operating at Drummondville. This same company also operates iron mines and blast furnaces in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario. The blast furnaces of Drummondville and Radnor were in regular operation, bog ore being almost exclusively used.

In the Township of Fabre, indications of cobalt and of silver have been found, and some important prospecting has been done upon them. There is some gold in Quebec but the main point is to ascertain whether it will be disseminated in workable quantity all through the mass of bearing rock.

Large Amount of Asbestos.

Asbestos is probably found in larger quantities than any other mineral in Quebec. Several companies are carrying on work, many being in Thetford township. The Dominion Asbestos Company, a new organization, is operating on a portion of the territory ceded by the Standard Company, and has been doing good work. The machinery is driven by electricity and the whole plant has a capacity of 500 tons of rock per 20 hours.

The copper market during the year was so irregular that any great development of the Quebec mines was not to be expected. At Capelton, the Eustis Mine alone was in operation this year with the usual results. The copper ore shipped this year amounted to 26,598 tons of 2,000 lbs. worth $159,588.

Prospecting is being actively carried on with good success, and in one case smaltite and nicolite have been found in large proportions in a calcite vein.