

REMARKS.

The figures given in the preceding general table bring out in a marked degree the gratifying results of the greatly increased activity in the mining industry during 1897.

The following table shows the principal changes in production and values for the calendar year 1897, as compared with the figures given in the revised summary for 1896.

PRODUCT.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
	p. c.	p. c.	p. c.	p. c.
<i>Metallic:—</i>				
Copper	41.6	.....	46.9	.....
Gold .....	.....	.....	122.6	.....
Iron Ore .....	.....	22.3	.....	6.7
Lead	61.2	.....	93.7	.....
Nickel	17.7	.....	17.7	.....
Silver	73.4	.....	54.6	.....
<i>Non-Metallic:—</i>				
Asbestos and Asbestic	106.2	.....	.....	24.5
Coal	3.5	.....	0.8	.....
Gypsum	15.8	.....	37.3	.....
Natural Gas .....	.....	.....	17.9	.....
Petroleum .....	.....	2.3	.....	12.5
Cement	37.6	.....	36.5	.....

The increase in the items silver and lead is practically all to be credited to British Columbia, to which province is also largely due the increase in the production of copper. The largest increase in this latter metal is, however, due to the increased shipments of nickel-copper mattes from the Sudbury mines in Ontario. The third copper producing province, Quebec, also contributed a fair amount to the increase shown. The silver, copper and lead increases as far as British Columbia is concerned, represent the largely extended activities in the South Kootenay districts of Slocan, Nelson and Trail Creek.

The most significant item, however, is to be found in the increase of nearly 123 per cent in the gold. All the gold producing districts of the Dominion show gratifying increases, although by far the largest part is due to the discoveries of rich placer mines in the Yukon country, and to the increased output of Trail Creek and other districts in British Columbia. The former increase amounted to about 2½ millions and the latter to nearly \$1,000,000.

The remaining metal of importance is nickel which is seen to have shown an increase of nearly 18 per cent. As in the past this is all from the Sudbury district.