

Scotia and British Columbia were the only producing Provinces. In that year, however, the placer gold of the Saskatchewan washings and the Yukon District began to be an appreciable if variable quantity. Owing to the discovery of the Klondike the gold out-put of the North-West Territories has been of increasing importance, until in 1897 it takes first place. British Columbia was then outdistanced, notwithstanding the rapid increase in her product during the few years preceding 1897 due to the working of the ore deposits of the Southern Kootenay section. In the early nineties Ontario began to appear on the scene with the gold of her quartz mines and has steadily improved her standing with regard to the Dominion output as a whole. The relative position of the various Provinces in 1892—the year of Canada's lowest production of gold—was as follows: Nova Scotia, nearly 43 per cent.; British Columbia, about 44 per cent.; North-West Territories and Yukon, about 10 per cent.; Ontario and Quebec, a little over 2 per cent. In 1897 we have the North-West Territories and Yukon, about 42 per cent.; British Columbia about 45 per cent.; Nova Scotia about 9 per cent., and Ontario about 3 per cent.

In 1898 the proportions had changed to the following: Yukon and North-West Territories, as per nearest attainable estimate, about 72.9 per cent.; British Columbia, 20.6 per cent.; Nova Scotia, 4.4 per cent.; Ontario, nearly 2 per cent.

By reference to the before given table of Canada's gold production the results of these increases in all the provinces are evident in the very large proportional growth in the figures of late years. In 1892, her lowest year since 1863, she had sunk to a total output of a little over \$900,000 of gold. In the five following years, to 1897, the figures show an increase of 564 per cent., and the country had regained all the ground lost in the 34 years since 1863, and overtopped that year by about 44 per cent. The increase of late has been very rapid, from 1894 to 1895, 84.5 per cent.; from 1895 to 1896, 32.2 per cent.; from 1896 to 1897, 118.7 per cent., and from 1897 to 1898 over 127 per cent.

In value the silver product of Canada ranks far below that of gold. In 1898 the latter constituted over 36 per cent. of the total mineral output of the Dominion, taking first place, with coal second, whilst the value of the silver produced was but a