

relative shares of the total value of principal mineral products of the country stand as under: Gold, 44.53 per cent. of the whole; coal, 19.12 per cent.; building materials, 9 per cent.; copper, 5.62 per cent.; nickel, 4.37 per cent.; silver, 3.88 per cent. Metallic products constitute about 61 per cent. of the value of the whole.

BRITISH LUMBER MARKETS.

The outlook for Canadian lumber in the British markets continues bright, and in some quarters it is predicted that a sudden ending of the South African war would send prices higher than even the most optimistic dealers dared to hope. Farnworth & Jardine's wood circular just to hand describes the business for February in the West of England as satisfactory on the whole; arrivals have been moderate, deliveries have more than kept pace and stocks are now as a rule light. The arrivals at Liverpool from Canada totalled 2,048 tons register compared with 2,099 tons register for February, 1898. As to prices there is little or no change, previous advances being fairly well maintained.

In Canadian pine the deliveries of waney have been small, but stocks are also reduced and prices are firm with strong advance prices quoted for next season's shipments; in square, enquiry is limited, and the stock is sufficient. There has been more enquiry for large red pine for future shipment as the stock is almost exhausted. Of the other woods oak shows some improvement, but the stock at present is sufficient; elm is in good request at full prices; ash is steady and in moderate demand; pine deal deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, and values are improved, though the stock, largely composed of oddments, is still heavy; red pine deals are in good demand at firm prices.

The arrivals of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick spruce and pine deals were 1,070 standards, compared with 2,060 standards for the same month of 1898, a decided falling off, and as deliveries have been fair stocks are not too large, and prices are steady; more headway is now being made in selling for the coming season. Birch logs show no arrivals and satisfactory deliveries, but values are unchanged, while birch planks under moderate importations by steamer are a little easier though there is fair enquiry and stocks are moderate. There is a good opening for British Columbia pine or fir, as the stock is entirely exhausted.

SEA GRASS OR "SEA MOSS."

An industry that is assuming larger proportions on the flats of the Lower St. Lawrence, along the south shore of the counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure, in Quebec, and also on the east shore of the province of New Brunswick, is the preparation for commercial purposes of "sea grass" or "sea moss," used in upholstering. On the hard bottoms at Rimouski and Isle Verte the grass grows from two to four feet long, while at Gaspé, Bonaventure and in New Brunswick where the flats are soft it is said to attain a length of twelve feet. Scythes are used to mow it, and care and experience are required to cure it, and clear it entirely from salt, the shrinkage during the process being so great that 100 pounds green is required to make 12 pounds dried.

The total yield in 1898 was 1,473 tons, divided as follows: Isle Verte, St. Eloi and Cacouna, 1,120 tons; Rimouski, 163 tons; Seven Islands, 55 tons; Paspébiac district, 45 tons; New Brunswick, 90 tons. The dealers buy the grass from the farmers, sort it, press it and market it. Last year, we have heard it estimated, nearly twice as much was produced as in 1898, and the competition engendered had the usual effect on prices. In 1898 farmers got from \$15 to \$20 per ton for their grass, and the average price on the car was \$25 per ton or \$30 delivered in Chicago or Cincinnati—for only about one-tenth of the crop is used in Canada. Last year the price fell to \$12 to \$15 to farmers, and dealers sold it on the cars at \$17 to \$20; but that the fall in prices is largely due to price cutting by dealers is evidenced by the fact that at the present rate of shipping the supply will be exhausted long before next season's crop is ready for shipment. The grass is clean, healthy, elastic, as well as durable, light and cheap, and is fast growing in favor with upholsterers, creating for itself a place in the markets.

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

The imports and exports at Toronto for last month were on a liberal scale, the aggregate being \$3,684,402. This sum was made up of \$2,832,747 imports and \$851,655 exports. Of the imports, free goods constituted \$846,187, the bulk being raw materials for manufacture, such as furs, hides, skins, crude rubber, raw cotton, chemicals and coal. A comparison of this year's February imports with the previous February shows that increases are general: dry goods, metal goods, books, paper, leather, jewelry, glass, fruit, have all been bought more largely, as the following comparative list shows:

DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

	Feb., 1900.	Feb., 1899.
Brass, and manufactures of.....	\$ 9,779	\$ 6,205
Copper, and manufactures of.....	970	98
Iron and steel, manufactures of.....	194,054	148,936
Lead, and manufactures of.....	4,806	9,449
Metals and composition.....	17,452	14,438
Total metal goods.....	\$227,061	\$179,186
Cotton manufactures.....	\$226,685	\$182,079
Fancy goods.....	92,153	72,375
Flax manufactures.....	71,887	53,474
Hats, caps and bonnets.....	96,410	85,774
Silk, and manufactures of.....	188,303	139,938
Woolen manufactures.....	328,916	253,330
Total dry goods.....	\$1,004,384	\$786,970
Books and pamphlets.....	\$ 31,886	\$ 29,371
Bicycles and tricycles and parts.....	21,874	58,734
Coal, bituminous.....	44,371	29,974
Coal, anthracite (free).....	63,523	101,110
Drugs and medicines.....	26,380	22,130
Earthen, stone and chinaware.....	31,668	25,720
Fruit, green and dried.....	23,009	16,467
Glass and glassware.....	35,908	27,825
Jewelry and watches.....	54,364	44,707
Leather, and manufactures.....	38,013	25,802
Musical instruments.....	15,478	12,430
Oils of all kinds.....	18,921	8,953
Paper and envelopes.....	47,615	39,737
Spirits and wines.....	5,151	6,815
Sugar and molasses.....	17,418	12,708
Wooden manufactures.....	11,829	9,615

The largest item mentioned in the export list is fruit, next to which comes grain of half a dozen kinds. The item "other articles" in the Customs return, consists largely of cloverseed. Horses and live animals bulk up to \$104,000; wool is \$39,498, while some two thousand tons of dead meat represents a value of \$365,000. Among manufactured goods, leather and leather goods, \$41,000 is a considerable item. Among the "other articles," we find by enquiry at the Custom House, are cast-ings, drugs and agricultural implements.

EXPORTS—PRODUCE OF CANADA.

	Feb., 1900.	Feb., 1899.
Produce of the mine.....	\$.....	\$ 9
Produce of the fisheries.....		7
Produce of the forest.....	1,974	2,006
Produce of the field.....	96,559	170,434
Animals and their produce.....	535,795	506,724
Manufactures.....	187,708	198,618
Coin and bullion.....		550
Total.....	\$822,036	\$878,348

DOMINION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

A very encouraging business for 1899 is shown by the Dominion Life Assurance Co. That company in its tenth year showed cash premium receipts 27 per cent. greater than in 1898. The amount assured is nearly one-fourth greater, reaching now \$3,646,000, and the assets are increased by 19½ per cent. over the previous year. A feature of the company's business is that it has separate branches for women and for those who drink no spirits or malt liquors. These should attract a very considerable business.