

To the Honorable A. TURGEON,  
Commissioner of Colonization and Mines,  
Quebec,

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit you a statement of the operations of the different mining industries in the province, to form part of the report of the Department. This statement covers the period from 1st January 1900, to 1st January, 1901. As you are aware, we have for three years past published this statement separately. The inconvenience of dividing into two the season of operations or of delaying for a year the publication of the information obtained led us to adopt this practice, which is altogether to the advantage of those interested in mining.

The mining industry continues to develop regularly in the province, without, however, presenting any very striking new features. The most important operations have been in asbestos, copper, mica, chrome and iron, and an increase in the output of these has to be reported. The working population has augmented and it is noteworthy that, in certain districts, wages have been raised 25 per cent by the mining companies. The gross value of the minerals utilized is represented this year by a sum of \$2,546,000 with 5,400 hands employed, to whom the companies paid in wages about \$1,300,000 for an average of ten months' work. I may remark that the figures of the production of the mining industry would be much increased, if the value of the manufactured products were given. The Mining Act has been well observed and the number of permits issued was larger than that of previous years. The safety of the workmen is well assured and the number of accidents is represented by two men killed and a few badly injured apart from the many accidents mentioned in the newspapers and resulting from the unskillfulness of workmen using dynamite in the different works, the inspection of which does not come under our control.

Please accept, Sir, the expression of my respect.

J. OBALSKI, M. E.  
Inspector of Mines.

Quebec, March, 1901.