

"Many civilized nations have collected and published statistics of mines and mining, and the consensus of opinion expressed by statesmen, business men and publicists is that they are of direct and practical value. Simple statistics of production are much valued by merchants, manufacturers and miners; indeed the trades usually attempt the collection of such statistics through their organizations or representative journals, in cases where this is not done by Government. The knowledge of a country's mineral resources is of value to statesmen and to all who are interested in public affairs.

"2. 'As to the desirability of calling special attention to the various minerals of economic interest, their application, their extraction, and their treatment.'

"The value of mineral statistics is greatly increased if, in connection therewith, there be published such descriptive material as will give a knowledge of the existing state of the industries connected therewith, especially in regard to improvements in technical practice.

"The office through which the statistical reports are issued should serve as a bureau of information on subjects within its scope, to be freely accessible to citizens of the state for such matters as the determination of specimens, &c., and even for advice in cases which do not interfere with the interests of professional engineers, geologists and chemists.

"3. 'If desirable, whether the work should be done in connection with and as a subordinate department of the Geological Survey, or by a separate and independent department or bureau.'

"In reply to this question, I beg to express the opinion that the Geological Survey should be required to execute this trust, for the following reasons:

"(a.) It is to be assumed that the gentlemen most competent to perform this task are employed in the Geological Survey as professional experts; and the reputation of the corps of gentlemen engaged in the Geological Survey of the Dominion fully warrants this assumption.

"(b.) The work of a geological corps has for its prime economic object the exposition of the conditions under which the mineral wealth of a country may be utilized, and while prosecuting such investigation the additional work of preparing the mineral statistics could be carried on at a slight increased cost compared with that necessary to maintain an independent bureau.

"(c.) The objections which statesmen may properly urge to the multiplication of official bureaux will be avoided thereby.

"I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

"J. W. POWELL,

"*Director U. S. Geol. Survey.*"

"ROBERT N. HALL,

"Chairman Committee on Mining and Metallurgical Statistics,

"House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada."

(2 accompanying books.)

"UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,

"COLUMBIA, Mo., 12th April, 1884.

"SIR,—Owing to accidental neglect, I have delayed, perhaps, until it is too late, to give my expression with regard to rendering the Canadian Geological Survey more efficient. I am thoroughly conversant with the work of the Canadian Survey, being myself a Canadian, and having held a Chair of Geology in one of the Canadian Universities, until called here by greater inducements than my country afforded.

"In this State there have been organized several Surveys, of whose reports copies will probably be found in the Geological Library at Ottawa; if not, I may be able to procure copies for it.

"The United States, since 1866, has had several Geological Surveys organized for the Territories, but they are now all consolidated and form a bureau, not only of