

THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

Official reports are usually so long delayed, we have pleasure in complimenting Mr. E. D. Ingall, M.E., the mining engineer of the Geological Survey, upon the promptness with which he has published his report on the mineral productions of Canada for 1896. The following table is a summary of the returns for last year, compared with 1895:—

	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	1896.		1895.	
<i>Metallic.</i>				
		\$		\$
Copper, lbs.....	9,385,556	1,021,148	8,789,162	949,227
Gold.....		2,810,206		1,910,921
Iron Ore, tons....	88,206	184,313	102,797	238,070
Lead, lbs.....	24,199,977	721,384	23,075,892	749,966
Nickel, ".....	3,500,000	1,155,000		7,360,984
Silver, ozs.....	3,205,343	2,147,579	1,775,683	1,158,633
		\$8,039,640		\$6,370,146
<i>Non-Metallic.</i>				
Asbestos, tons....	12,250	429,856	8,756	368,175
Coal, ".....	3,743,234	8,006,305	3,512,504	7,774,178
Gypsum.....	205,203	174,403	226,178	202,608
Petroleum, bbls....	726,827	1,155,676	802,573	1,201,184
Phosphate, tons....	570	3,990	1,822	9,565
Pyrites, ".....	33,715	101,155		1,650
Salt, ".....	43,956	169,677	60,018	180,417
Sundries.....				
		\$10,695,401		\$10,756,789
<i>Structural Materials.</i>				
Bricks, stones, &c..		2,834,324		3,217,425
Cement, bbls.....	137,790	201,505	134,644	181,162
Lime.....		650,000		900,000
Pottery, sewer pipes, Terra Cotta		428,635		577,768
Slate and tiles....		278,370		258,900
Total non-metallic.....		\$15,087,665		\$15,875,197
Total metallic.....		8,239,640		6,370,146
		\$23,127,305		\$22,245,343

From 1886 to 1889 the average production was \$13,125,000, from 1890 to 1894 the average rose to \$19,700,000, and last year, 1896, the total was about one million dollars in excess of 1895, and nearly double what the total was ten years ago. It will be noted that the total increase last year in gold and silver of \$1,188,231 was largely offset by a falling off in the production of nickel, iron ore, bricks, building stone, lime, and some minor products, such as indicate quietude in the building trade. When trade revives and the mines projected begin to be worked, the mineral production of Canada will be very largely increased, and rise to a prominent position amongst its annual sources of income. The wide distribution of the mineral wealth of Canada is one peculiar feature in this country. Some one or more of the mineral products are found in every Province. A more or less continuous belt of coal stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific. British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, are richly endowed with metalliferous ores. Last year the latter Province produced gold valued at \$453,000. In 1895, Canada exported seven and a quarter millions worth of crude mineral products, besides a large quantity of goods in the manufacture of which a large quantity of mineral productions had been employed. The richness of Canada in

BUILDING MATERIALS

is manifested by the solid and magnificent stone structures of this and other cities, which are adorned by native marbles, and in the excellence of those humbler but highly valuable materials which are used in the great mass of our domestic buildings. Besides the brick clays we have clays adopted for sewer pipes, pottery, furnace fire bricks, and stone well adapted for paving, with materials out of which are made excellent cements of the ordinary class, and those of the "Portland" variety. In nickel we have almost a monopoly; indeed there is hardly a mineral production known to commerce which is not to be found in this Dominion. An indication of what the future has in store for Canada is given by the Hamilton Blast Furnace Co., which from January to September, 1896, used 9,062 tons of native ores, out of which 5,890 tons of pig iron were made. Other ores were used to extent of 6,781 tons, producing 13,247 tons of pig iron, the fuel for smelting which was limestone from Port Colborne, Ontario, a fact those familiar with blast furnaces will know to be most important. In this connection we record with great satisfaction the recent munificent donations of

MR. W. C. McDONALD

to McGill College for the purpose of founding, equipping and providing for the active operations of a School of Mineralogy and Metallurgy, akin to that of the Royal School of Mines, England, and those to which Germany owes so much of her advance in metallic manufactures. Having suggested such an institution in THE CHRONICLE of 15th February, it is an especial pleasure to acknowledge the liberality of our fellow-citizen whose gifts to McGill have been as wise as they have been magnificent.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY'S ADDRESS.

The people of the United States pay no compliment to their political sagacity by changing their chief executive officer every four years. This is practically an admission of incapacity to select a President who is worth keeping more than the brief period which is required for him to learn his duties. Hence, every President is, more or less, an experiment. Yet, if there is one elected who is eminently successful, who proves himself gifted with the statesmanlike qualities needed by the ruler of a great nation, he is sent adrift in four years just as though his eminent services were no longer of any value. Not only is one so distinguished, who has acquired invaluable experience as President, put out of his high office, but he is treated as though he had forfeited his civil rights by having served his country, as, on his retirement, he is forbidden entrance to the Senate, or Congress, or to any of the upper walks of political life. The system is most incongruous, as it involves the selection of the ablest statesman in the nation for its most elevated office, and, after four years of brilliant