

different European nations surpass us in production, but it is probable that our deposits are more extensive, except in the case of coal, petroleum, and tin. Already in asbestos we have surpassed not only Europe but the world. Italy, our only competitor, is far behind. With nickel we occupy the same proud position. Our gold product, which gives evidence of surpassing that of the United States and Australia may easily exceed that of all Europe combined.

Our deposits of iron, lead, silver, copper, salt and other minerals are enormous. They are, however, almost entirely undeveloped. We can only guess at their value. So far we have, as a people, merely scratched the surface of a few acres of our mineral inheritance. To give an idea what industry and capital will accomplish we can give no better examples than those of Belgium and Australia. Belgium, a country of only 6,200,000 inhabitants, crowded into an area about half the size of Nova Scotia, draws twice as large an income from her mines as does Canada. Australia, with an area and population both slightly less than our own, has an annual mineral production nearly three times the value of ours. Yet it is very probable that there is as much mineral wealth in Nova Scotia alone as in Belgium. Indeed, Nova Scotia, with coal and iron deposits in close proximity to each other, should, like Belgium, send her iron manufactures to the ends of the world.

While we have been slow in beginning the development of our mines a fair start has now been made, and we have hope for more rapid advancement in the near future. The discovery of gold in the Klondike in such vast quantities may be but the beginning of Canada's greatness, as many foreigners are immigrating to this country and are employing their capital here.

The total value of the mineral product for 1896 was about twenty-three-and-a-half-million dollars. Coal is the most important, yielding annually about eight million dollars. Gold is second, with a product approaching three million in value, which gives us tenth place among the nations. Nickel, copper, and petroleum each exceed one million in value, and the silver output now amounts to over two million. In coal we rank eleventh, in petroleum fourth, and in silver tenth. Bricks and building stones are the only other products passing the million line in value.

Considering the fact of the many discoveries made in the last few years, and that the total production from our minerals in the last ten years has doubled we may predict a high rank for Canada in the future. Within the last two years the gold and silver output of British Columbia has increased enormously. Estimated at \$380,000 in 1893, it grew to about \$2,200,000 in 1895, and reached \$3,900,000 in 1896. Similar advancements have been made in the products from other minerals and there is no reason why we should not expect that Canada in a few years will take first place in the productions of many of her minerals.

A. B., '98.