ment! And what a comforting reflection for those interested in mining that the industry is subject to such capricious and vexatious rulings!

The greatest and most pressing need of Canada today is capital to develop the mines of the country. One of the best means of inducing its incoming is to publish reliable statistics of the output of the precious metals. Let us show our progress month my month and year by year. Surely if the United States finds it expedient to publish an epitome of its mineral production for the year as promptly as the 31st of December, it would also be of advantage to Canada to see that its statistics of mineral production were put promptly in the hands of the public. The Rand crushings are, or have been, eagerly looked for in reference to each month of the year. Western Australia takes the most elaborate precautions to have its monthly and yearly production accurately noted. There can be no two questions about the adantages to be derived from the publication of such facts and figures. Canada has nothing to conceal, as a matter of fact a most wonderful rate of progress to show. The mineral production of Canada in gold, silver, lead, copper and nickel has been multiplied two and a-half times in two years. About $13,000,000 in 1897, it increased to $21,000,000 in 1898, while a rough estimate for 1899 shows an output of at least $34,000,000. Canada is now as important a producer of the precious metals as Western Australia and has a future infinitely greater. But people do not know it. The mining industry of Canada is still considered by European investors as of doubtful commercial importance and the results so far obtained have been minimized in their minds by the lack of success, on the average, which has attended their particular investments. But the main trouble is that Canada has not yet awakened to a consciousness of its own future as a mineral producing country. The glory of the country is not its wheat and corn and butter and cheese, but its gold and silver and copper and lead and coal and iron. These mark it as a great manufacturing and trading conutry. The natural resources which have made great countries of Britain and the United States must equally affect the future of Canada. Still, without the power or will to attract the surplus capital of the world how comparatively slow and laborious must our progress be. As already pointed out one of the best ways to attract capital is to publish statistics of progress, and it so happens that this could be very easily done. The mineral output of Canada takes the form of either gold dust, gold bullion, lead bullion, copper matte or crude ore. None of these are retained in the country; they are all exported and their amounts, with the value of them, are entered at the various ports of entry. Now what could be easier than for the Government to get from each customs officer the amount of metal of different kinds, and its value, exported every month, to collate and epitomize these returns at a central office and publish a monthly bulletin of mineral production which could be easily and accurately summarized at the end of the year. Such a bulletin would be eagerly seized upon and published by the press: its cost would be almost nothing and its value to the mining industry would be incalculable. Of course all this information finds its way finally into the statistical year book. But there its proper significance is lost to the casual reader and has to be carefully extracted before it becomes anything of an advertisement to the country. The step suggested is so easy and so obvious that surely some one in authority might be induced to consider the expediency of its immediate adoption.

Apropos of the new basis which the American Smelting and Refining Co. has established in purchasing lead ore, our esteemed contemporary, the *Mining and Scientific Press* of San Francisco, makes some remarks which should prove interesting to owners of silver-lead mines in this country:

"After January 1st, 1900, the American Smelting and Refining Co. wishes to do away with the brokers' quotation on lead, and in its lieu the quotation of the average actual sales in New York for the previous week will govern the settling price of lead for the week following. The full price of these average sales will be paid, less a deduction of ⅛ of a cent per pound."

"The plan is to have the average price of lead which ruled in New York City during the week wired the different managers of the different districts every Monday morning, and the settlement for the current week will be on that basis—less ⅛ of a cent per pound: for instance, to-day's quotations, $4.70⅛, would make the price $4.57½. That the market will fluctuate is manifest; that the system will not induce or insure general satisfaction is equally plain; but it is deemed an improvement over the old way. The fact that the purchasers have the making of the market, the setting of the pace and price, and can arbitrarily raise or depress values, is too obvious to need more than reference. With the lead producers of Colorado, Utah and the Coast rests the final verdict. The first effect is satisfactory, in an increased price. Lead fluctuated so much, and 'brokers' quotations' have so spoiled markets as to occasion an annual loss of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. The present quotations are the best in many years. Ten years ago lead was $3.85 (and silver was $1.50¾). In August, '90, lead went to $5, and in October of that year $5.25. In January, '91, it went down to $4.05, silver being quoted at $1.03¾. January 1st, '92, lead was $4.25; silver, 94⅝c.; and in June, '93, lead ruled at $3.40, silver 62c. Lead dropped during '94 and '95, and in August, '96, went down to $2.50 per hundred pounds. On January 1t, '97, it had advanced to $2.90; January 1st, '98, $3.70; December, '99, $4.45. The quotation of $4.57½ looks well alongside the above figures. In the new deal it is understood that the National Lead Co. has got the worst of it. The result must be the stimulation of the mining of plumbiferous ores, for they are a prime requisite in the smelting of dry ores. It will also affect the present international relations in the importation of British Columbia lead ore. There is an increase in the working charges, nothing is paid for the lead in lead ores containing less than five per cent of that metal. Nevada complains: 'Ninety per cent. of the assay of lead at New York quotations is now paid, less $30 per ton, which, with the ⅛ of 1 cent per pound added, makes a deduction of $32.50 per ton. In the past from $23.50 to 27.50, depending on the percentage of lead, was deducted. This will make a difference of from $4 to $9 per ton on lead. We also pay $1 per ton more for treatment charges.' The Smelting and Refining Company say: 'This is the best we can do. In Utah the increased price of coke, coal and iron ore makes an additional expense to our Salt Lake smelters of $175 per day.'