

## PREFACE.

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The year 1896 has been notable for a very marked and gratifying increased activity in the development of the mineral resources of the Dominion, and in the additions to the number of its dividend-paying mines.

An approximate estimate places the total value of the yield at \$23,627,305, or an advance over the year 1895 of \$1,627,305. The principal products were: Coal and coke, \$8,117,865; gold and silver, \$4,957,785; copper, nickel and pyrites, \$2,277,303; petroleum and natural gas, \$1,431,947; structural materials, \$4,392,834; asbestos, \$429,856; lead, \$721,384; iron ore, \$184,313.

In Nova Scotia the coal production was increased to 2,235,472 tons, and the gold yield to 25,596 ozs. The most important feature of the year here was the opening up and equipment of a number of new gold properties and the installation of a very fine milling and chlorination plant, at a cost of \$80,000, at North Brookfield. The renewed activity in the large low-grade deposits promises most excellent results, and not the least favorable feature of this activity is the fact that almost all of the capital is coming either from the Province itself or from the sister Province of Quebec. The occurrence of gold in Nova Scotia has been very carefully studied by the officers of the Geological Survey of Canada, and has become well understood. The veins are found to follow the lines of anticlinal folds, in precisely the same manner with the well known reefs of Bendigo, in Australia, but the flexures are broader and further apart in Nova Scotia, and the veins themselves appear to be more permanent in depth. The knowledge now gained of these veins renders it desirable that they should be worked in a larger way, combining series of parallel and adjacent deposits under a single management, and opening them up by means of one or two principal shafts. From the capital and management lately introduced it is confidently anticipated that the yield will be very largely increased in 1897, and that the gold mining industry of Nova Scotia will very soon attain dimensions and results more in keeping with its unquestioned natural resources. The other minerals produced were: Iron ore, 56,334 tons, a decrease of 23,302 tons; coke, 58,741 tons, an increase of 17,244 tons; gypsum, 130,489 tons, a decrease of 2,811 tons. Small quantities of manganese, copper and graphite were also shipped.

In Quebec the production of asbestos, copper pyrites, mica, chromite and graphite constituted the principal industries, and was carried on much on the same lines as in previous years. Towards the end of the year some British capital was invested in asbestos mining at Danville, and in the production of mica in Ottawa County. It can only be a matter of comparatively short time now until the gold fields of this section of the Dominion will receive the attention and the capital that is their due. The output may be stated as: Asbestos, \$429,856; pyrites, \$101,155; mica, \$100,000; chromite, \$25,982; graphite, \$10,000; gold, \$3,000; charcoal pig iron, 24,713 tons.