

SLATE.

The production of slate continues much the same as in previous years. No new quarries have been opened up, and the output was obtained entirely from the New Rockland slate quarries of Richmond county, Quebec, which have for a number of years been operated under lease by Messrs. Fraser and Davies.

The production for 1909 was reported as 4,000 squares, valued at \$19,000; as compared with a production valued at \$13,496 in 1908, and \$20,056 in 1907.

A small export of slate to the value of \$612 was reported in 1909.

Statistics of annual production since 1886 are shown herewith:—

Annual Production of Slate.

| Calendar Year. | Tons. | Value. | Calendar Year. | Tons. | Value. |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------------|-------|--------|
| | | \$ | | | \$ |
| 1886..... | 5,345 | 64,675 | 1898..... | | 40,791 |
| 1887..... | 7,357 | 89,000 | 1899..... | | 33,406 |
| 1888..... | 5,314 | 90,689 | 1900..... | | 12,100 |
| 1889..... | 6,935 | 119,160 | 1901..... | | 9,980 |
| 1890..... | 6,368 | 100,250 | 1902..... | | 19,200 |
| 1891..... | 5,000 | 65,000 | 1903..... | 5,510 | 22,040 |
| 1892..... | 5,180 | 69,070 | 1904..... | 5,277 | 23,247 |
| 1893..... | 7,112 | 90,825 | 1905..... | | 21,568 |
| 1894..... | | 75,550 | 1906..... | | 24,446 |
| 1895..... | | 58,900 | 1907..... | 4,335 | 20,056 |
| 1896..... | | 53,370 | 1908..... | 2,950 | 13,496 |
| 1897..... | | 42,800 | 1909..... | 4,000 | 19,000 |

That there is a more extensive market in Canada than is supplied by slate from Canadian sources is shown by the following statistics of imports:—

The total value of the imports of slate in 1909 was \$135,221, of which \$71,914 was roofing slate, and \$34,085 school writing slates. The imports of roofing slate, school writing slates, and manufacture of slate n. o. p. are chiefly from the United States. Some roofing slate is also imported from Great Britain, while slate pencils principally come from Germany and the United States.

Statistics of imports and exports are shown in the following table:—

Imports of Slate during the Years 1908 and 1909.

| Slate and Manufactures of. | 12 months ending March, 1908. | 12 months ending March, 1909. | 12 months ending Dec., 1909. |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Mantles..... | | 90 | |
| Roofing slate..... | 72,588 | 62,132 | 71,914 |
| School writing slate..... | 26,834 | 29,340 | 34,085 |
| Slate pencils..... | 3,898 | 4,379 | 6,154 |
| Slate of all kinds and manufactures of..... | 27,749 | 28,124 | 23,068 |
| | 131,069 | 124,065 | 135,221 |