

**Report on the Mineral Statistics of Newfoundland for the
Calendar Year 1903.**

St. John's, Nfld.,
February 27th, 1904.

THE HON. ELI DAWE,

Minister of Agriculture and Mines.

SIR,—Considerable delay has been experienced in getting together the necessary information upon which to formulate a report on the mineral industry for the past year. The usual blank forms sent out early in December to the various mine managers and others engaged in this occupation were not all returned till quite recently and then only after frequent personal application in many instances. This reluctance to furnish particulars is quite at variance with the action of those in other countries engaged in similar pursuits, all of whom recognize the value of such statistics, and look upon their publication as a good advertisement.

Applications for copies of these reports both from home and abroad are constantly being received, and great numbers of them have been sent to Canada, the United States, Great Britain and other European Countries as well as to South Africa, the Australian Commonwealth and elsewhere during the last few years. The demand is constantly on the increase and it is a satisfaction to know that authentic information of this kind as to the Colony's mineral wealth is appreciated.

There can be little doubt that its dissemination abroad is creating a more lively interest in the country and its rich mineral resources than was heretofore evinced, as witnessed by the constantly increasing numbers of capitalists and others interested in mining, who visit the country each succeeding year.

Notwithstanding the great falling off in the shipments of iron ore from Bell Island in 1902 the increase in other directions will bring the total output well up to the average of other years. It is a noticeable feature of this branch of the country's industrial pursuits that as one mineral product begins to fail others come to