

those engaged in gainful occupations. The greatest enterprise in this direction is to be found in British Columbia and Nova Scotia, which together contain 76 per cent. of the total mining population. In the province of Quebec there are in all some 1,500 miners, and something over 1,000 in Ontario.

It is, in fact, only quite recently that the Canadians have woken up to the realisation of the enormous mineral wealth which has so long been neglected, and in many cases unsuspected, beneath the surface of their country. Coal mining, in special, has made rapid strides during the last few years. Nova Scotia and British Columbia have exceedingly rich coalfields. In Nova Scotia the number of men employed in connection with coal mining in 1895 was 5,793, and the output of coal averaged 404 tons per man for the year. In British Columbia the number of men and boys employed for the same year was 2,924, against 2,012 in 1888, and the output of coal 548,017 tons, averaging 360 tons per man.

This, though not quite equal to the average output per man in the United States (448), is greatly in excess of that in the United Kingdom, where the output only averages 256 tons per man per annum. The coal areas of Canada altogether are estimated at 27,200 square miles. This estimate, however, does not include those known, but as yet undeveloped, in the Far North.

In addition to coal, Canada produces iron, gold, copper, silver, nickel, petroleum, salt, phosphate, asbestos, and gypsum in considerable quantities.

The annual gold yield of Canada amounts to 53,000 oz. Practically the whole of this comes from the provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia. The area of the gold measures of Nova Scotia has been estimated variously from 5,000 to 7,000 square miles, or about a quarter of the whole province; but the area from which gold has up to the present time actually been obtained is barely 40 square miles.

Copper occurs in Canada in the forms of native or metallic copper, and the sulphuretted ores. The former is confined principally to the rocks of the upper copper-bearing series on Lake Superior. The latter are widely diffused. In Ontario, on the North Eastern shores of Lake Huron, extensive veins of rich copper ores have been mined for years. It is, however, in Sudbury, Ontario, that the greatest development of the copper mining industry has taken place, the output here having doubled during the last three or four years. Copper mining is, however, still in its infancy, and the expenditure of considerable capital is required, as well as the general adoption of cheaper and more effective methods of separating the copper and the nickel, to assist its development.

Petroleum has been found in Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and it is affirmed that there is also an immense oil region still unexplored in the North West Territories. The largest oil-producing district is at present the county of Lambton, Ontario. The oil is obtained to a depth of from 370 to 500 ft. The first flowing well was struck on February 19th, 1882, and before October in the same year there were no less than 35 flowing wells. The annual output is reckoned at 600,000 barrels.

The salt produced in the Dominion is almost all manufactured in the province of Ontario, the Census returns showing 19 establishments in Ontario out of 20 for the Dominion. The salt beds of Western Ontario cover an area of about 2,000 square miles, embracing the counties of Lambton, Mason, and portions of Bruce, Middlesex, Kent and Essex. The beds are usually three in number, with an aggregate thickness of about 100 ft., and the salt is of excellent quality.

There is probably no mining industry in Canada that is in a healthier condition at the present time than that of asbestos. The mineral produced is in reality not asbestos proper, but a form of serpentine called "chrysotile." It occurs in veins in certain parts of the great belts of serpentine rocks of the eastern townships of Quebec. This mineral is shipped in large quantities to England, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and the United States.

Gypsum is at present worked only in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, though deposits have also been found in Manitoba and the Territories. It is perhaps the oldest worked of any of the deposits of the country, having been mined by the French in St. John (New Brunswick) as early as the year 1701.

The principal articles of mineral production go almost

exclusively to the United States or the United Kingdom—the vastly larger proportion of these going to the States.

In addition to her minerals, Canada has rich natural resources in her forests, her farms, and her fisheries.

The forests have been ruthlessly destroyed by the axe and by fire. The most valuable woods in the early days of the colony were literally regarded as so much "lumber," and how it was destroyed, so long as it disappeared, no one cared. The growing scarcity of the most valuable forest product, viz., first quality white pine, is causing the condition of the forests to be seriously considered by the Government, and it is to be hoped that some steps will be taken to prevent the total extinction of this wood.

The white pine forests on the North American Continent are now pretty well narrowed down to Canada, the immense forests which at one time existed in the northern parts of the United States having been cut out at a rapid rate. It is only about twenty-five years ago that Michigan was an unbroken forest of pine, and it has all disappeared before the lumberman's axe.

In the Ottawa valley the quantity of standing pine may be greater than some imagine, but lumbermen who have surveyed wide areas for investment in timber limits say that good tracts of pine are rapidly getting scarcer.

In the districts around the new railway to Parry Sound a good timber country, little worked, has been made accessible, and Gilmour & Co. and the St. Anthony Lumber Company have started working some valuable limits, producing good saw logs, square timber, and board pine, as well as hardwoods.

Canada stands fourth on the list of timber-exporting countries, and next to agriculture the timber trade is the most important industry from a commercial and economic point of view in the colony. The following figures will convey some idea of its extent. There are about 6,000 saw-mills in the Dominion, both large and small, with, say, an average capacity of 400,000 ft. board measure per season. These mills find employment during the working season for about 150,000 men, in and around the mills, sawing, piling, shipping, &c. In the woods, during the winter, getting out the logs and timber and river driving, about the same number are engaged.

The Department of Agriculture gives the following statistics of all the wood industries of the Dominion from the census of 1891:—

Name of Industries.	Invested Capital.	Wages.	Value of Product.
Ashery, pot and pearl ...	\$113,019	\$45,139	\$153,441
Basket making ...	80,540	66,987	151,003
Boat building ...	421,395	179,092	477,522
Cabinet and furniture ...	6,094,435	2,432,774	7,768,993
Carpenters and joiners ...	5,012,670	2,949,803	9,111,299
Carriage factories ...	8,229,621	2,999,572	9,744,416
Carving and gilding ...	72,174	42,845	136,430
Charcoal burning ...	56,831	22,696	91,874
Cheese-box factories ...	136,380	44,876	137,616
Cigar box factories ...	19,500	6,000	15,000
Coffin and casket making ...	502,146	166,039	498,440
Cooperages ...	1,896,931	744,534	2,384,072
Hub and spoke factories ...	160,895	30,010	105,400
Invalid and baby carriages ...	51,300	43,400	145,500
Last and peg factories ...	67,000	28,630	72,500
Lath mills ...	25,365	11,180	37,860
Mast and spar making ...	8,065	15,620	59,800
Match factories ...	336,950	143,064	434,953
Pecking cases ...	137,305	68,900	293,869
Pail and tub factories ...	191,130	36,380	99,950
Patterns and moulds ...	3,700	4,450	16,500
Piano-action factory ...	11,000	10,800	29,500
Picture frame making ...	289,962	122,014	564,579
Planing mills ...	2,955,680	970,112	5,211,592
Pulp-mills ...	2,900,907	2,902,099	1,057,810
Pump and wind-mills ...	519,897	163,325	601,513
Refrigerator factories ...	22,775	22,840	56,350
Sash, door, and blind factories ...	7,18,676	2,300,267	9,891,510
Saw-mills ...	50,203,111	12,625,895	51,262,435
Shingle mills ...	1,529,358	616,356	2,093,924
Shipbuilding ...	2,045,456	998,615	3,101,275
Show-case making ...	233,425	84,350	441,750
Shoek factories ...	73,677	28,127	99,719
Spinning wheel making ...	12,915	5,050	8,788
Spoon factories ...	63,407	25,000	50,000
Slave mills ...	724,242	29,008	814,333
Street car works ...	13,898	2,400	12,000
"Tanneries ...	6,322,613	1,522,027	*11,422,860
Trunk and box factories ...	659,805	253,863	1,042,733
Washing machines and wringers ...	93,260	46,300	164,998
Wood turning ...	469,510	204,265	621,096
Total ...	99,637,532	30,680,281	120,415,516

*The product in this instance is leather. In all the other cases the product remains wood.