

With the exception of the transposition of the positions of gold and coal, of natural gas and cement, and of gypsum and salt, the items stand in the same order as before. The feature mainly noticeable is of course the assumption of the first place by gold, and its large predominance over the rest. To this is largely due the fact that the metallic minerals as a class contributed in 1898 over 57 per cent of the whole, as compared with about 48 per cent last year. The structural materials amounted to about 12 per cent, and the other non-metallic minerals to about 30 per cent.