

Extent to which Canadian Trade was Maintained.

Compared with the falling-off in the iron and steel business of the United States and Europe during 1908, Canada's showing gives considerable cause for encouragement. The world over, there was a decline of about 25 per cent. from the production of 1907 during 1908, the year's decrease in the United States alone being about 40 per cent. In Canada, on the other hand, about 620,000 tons of pig iron were manufactured in the calendar year 1908, as compared with 634,000 tons in 1907—or a decline of but little more than 2 per cent. Steel ingots totalled 556,000 tons in 1908 as compared with 666,000 tons in 1907—the decline in this case being rather over 15 per cent.

THE MINERAL OUTPUT OF CANADA.**Important Increases in Gold, Silver and Coal—****Output of Asbestos and Portland Cement****Grows Steadily—Dominion's \$87,000,000****Mining Production in 1908 would****have Reached a Value of Over \$95,-****000,000 had Metal Prices of****1907 Continued.**

Fifteen years ago the annual mineral output of the Dominion was about \$20,000,000. Ten years ago it was still under \$50,000,000. Last year—in spite of metal prices greatly lowered—the aggregate reached \$87,323,819. Considering copper, silver, lead and nickel alone, had the average prices for 1907 continued during 1908, these products would have been worth over \$8,000,000 more to the producers than was actually the case.

A comparison of average monthly prices of metals in 1907 and 1908, as quoted by the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York, shows the severity of the past year's price decreases.

COMPARISON OF PRICES OF METALS, 1907 AND 1908.

Copper.....	20.004	13.208	6.796	33.97
Lead.....	5.325	4.200	1.125	21.12
Nickel.....	45.000	43.	2.	4.44
Silver.....	65.327	52.864	12.463	19.07
Spelter.....	5.962	4.726	1.236	20.73
Tin.....	38.166	29.465	8.701	22.79

Taken in conjunction with the year's increase and decrease in various minerals mined, the foregoing price-changes give the following comparison as to values in 1907 and 1908.

COMPARISON OF QUANTITIES AND VALUES, 1907-1908.

Product.	Quantity.		Value		Increase.	Decrease.
	In-crease.	De-crease.	In-crease.	De-crease.		
Metallic—	%	%	%	%	\$	\$
Copper.....	13.9	....	....	24.8	.....	2,806,484
Gold.....	14.0	....	14.0	....	1,176,494	.....
Pig iron (from Canadian ore only).....	....	7.6	....	16.0	.....	318,005
Lead.....	....	4.2	....	24.4	.....	621,599
Nickel.....	....	9.7	....	13.7	.....	1,303,869
Silver.....	72.7	....	39.7	....	3,318,638	.....
Non-metallic						
Asbestos and Asbestic... ..	0.4	....	2.7	....	62,739	.....
Coal.....	5.2	....	5.3	....	1,185,393	.....
Gypsum.....	....	29.8	....	11.0	.....	71,213
Natural Gas.....	....	....	24.0	....	197,028	.....
Petroleum.....	....	33.1	....	29.3	.....	309,986
Salt.....	10.0	....	10.7	....	36,483	.....
Portland Cement.....	9.4	....	....	1.8	.....	68,265

It is encouraging that, in spite of the large decreases in the prices of metals, the mining industry as a whole more than held its own throughout Canada in 1908. The year's total of \$87,323,849 compares with \$86,842,765 in 1907. What little falling off there was in the total values of metallic minerals and of structural materials was considerably more than counterbalanced by the increase in other non-metallic products, notably coal, asbestos and natural gas. With gradual recovery of metal prices, the current year's showing promises a marked increase in total values.

The Year's Increase in Gold and Silver.

The preliminary report of the Dominion Department of Mines comments upon the fact that for the first time in nine years the gold output of \$9,559,274 shows an increase over the previous year. The Yukon output in 1908 is estimated at about \$3,600,000 as compared with \$3,150,000 in 1907, while a considerably increased production is also shown in the province of British Columbia.

Of the total gold output in 1908, over 44 per cent. was obtained from placer and hydraulic workings and 56 per cent. from sulphuret and quartz ores.

The estimated silver production of Canada in 1908 was 22,070,212 ounces, shipped as fine bars, silver bullion, and obtained in matte, ore etc., as compared with 12,779,799 ounces produced in 1907, an increase of over 72 per cent. Owing, however, to the much lower price received in 1908, the total value of \$11,667,197 shows an increase of only 40 per cent. Over 85 per cent. of the output was obtained from Ontario, and the increase is all to be credited to this province, since there was a slight falling off in the silver output of British Columbia. The output from Cobalt district in the province of Ontario again shows a very large increase over the previous year, nearly twice as much silver having been produced.

Copper, Lead and Nickel.

Statistics of copper production in 1908 show a total output of 64,361,636 lbs., valued at \$8,500,885, an increase in quantity of about 14 per cent. over the production of 1907, but a decrease of 24.82 per cent. in value. There was an increase of over 900,000 lbs. in the copper from the Sudbury mines, while statistics of production in British Columbia show a very important increase in production in that province of 6,500,000 pounds.

All of the lead production shown in the general table, viz.: 45,725,886 pounds valued at \$1,920,487 was obtained in the province of British Columbia. The production in 1907 was 47,738,703 pounds valued at \$2,542,036, a decrease in quantity being therefore shown of about 4 per cent.

As the departmental report points out, with the exception of the nickel contained in the ores shipped from the Cobalt district, the production of nickel in Canada is derived entirely from the well-known nickel-copper deposits of the Sudbury district. Previous to 1906 the output had been increasing steadily for a number of years. During the past three years, however, the production has not varied very greatly. In 1908 its value was \$8,231,538.

Coal and Coke.

With the exception of British Columbia, each of the coal producing provinces increased its output in 1908. Total sales and shipments of coal, including colliery consumption and coal used in making coke, were 10,904,466 short tons—an increase of about 5