

Increase in  
the use of  
steel.

459. The world's production of pig iron has increased from 14,119,263 tons in 1878 to 25,171,095 tons in 1889, an increase of 78 per cent., and the production of steel from 3,021,093 tons to 10,746,126 tons in the same time, an increase of 255 per cent. These figures are very significant, as showing how rapidly the use of steel has grown, in spite of the increased use of manufactured iron.

Copper.

460. Copper constitutes one of the most important of the mineral treasures of the Dominion, and is destined to occupy a very important rank amongst its resources. Its ores are distributed over vast tracts of country in Ontario, in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, in Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, and in New Brunswick. There have hitherto been no copper smelting works in operation in Canada, and consequently all the ores have been exported for treatment abroad, but smelting works have been established at Sudbury, in Ontario, in which neighbourhood what are perhaps the largest deposits of copper ore in the world have been recently discovered. Two furnaces are in operation and others are being built.

Production of  
copper  
1889

461. The production in 1889 was 111,774 tons of ore, containing 6,809,752 lbs. of fine copper, valued at \$885,424. This was an increase of 1,246,888 lbs., as compared with 1888.

Exports of  
copper  
1879-1889.

462. During the years 1860 to 1869, inclusive, copper ore to the value of \$1,593,978 was exported from Quebec, and of \$2,498,008 from Ontario, but since that year, until 1886, there was no export from Ontario. The total value exported from the two Provinces since 1860 has been \$8,194,828. The exports from the other Provinces have been too small to be worth notice. It is said that the Customs returns of quantity and value have been low, and the amount actually exported has been considerably larger than the above figures. The following table gives the exports of copper for the eleven years, 1879-1889 :—