

Increase in use of steel. 726. The world's production of pig iron has increased from 14,119,263 tons in 1878 to about 26,003,780 tons in 1891, an increase of 78 per cent, and the production of steel from 3,021,093 to 12,290,892 tons in the same time, an increase of 305 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. 727. 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 were, until recently, no copper smelting works in operation in Canada, and consequently all the ores were 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. Four companies are now at work, smelting about 500 tons of ore daily and employing nearly 1,000 men.

Production of copper. 728. The production of copper in 1890 was 6,013,671 lbs., valued at \$902,050; in 1891, it was 9,529,076 lbs., valued at \$1,238,780, and in 1892 it was 7,042,195 lbs., valued at \$821,589.

Exports of copper, 1878-1892. 729. 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 \$8,893,249. 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 that the amount actually exported has been considerably larger than the above figures. The following table gives the exports of copper for the fourteen years, 1879-1892:—

EXPORTS OF COPPER FROM CANADA, 1879 TO 1892.

YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.	YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	\$		Lbs.	\$
1879.	408,860	47,817	1886.	2,403,040	249,250
1880.	1,434,700	192,171	1887.	2,589,660	137,966
1881.	1,244,780	125,753	1888. ....	.....	257,260
1882.	1,864,170	182,502	1889. ..	.....	168,457
1883.	1,400,300	148,709	1890. ....	.....	398,497
1884.	2,714,400	273,422	1891. ....	.....	236,027
1885.	2,626,000	262,600	1892. ....	.....	185,848