

578. Compared, however, with the United States, the growth of our development seems small indeed. Of metallic products they had \$302,307,000, or \$4.48 yearly per inhabitant, while Canada had \$1.30 a year per inhabitant, and would have had much less had it not been for the development of the Sudbury deposits. Notwithstanding all one hears about the finding of gold here and the opening of gold mines there, and the introduction of machinery on which the duty has been remitted, the output of gold diminishes steadily year after year. In 1886 there were 76,879 ounces exported; in 1888, 61,310 ounces; in 1891, 51,303 ounces, and in 1892, 49,985 ounces. This does not seem to be according to the "eternal fitness of things." The geologists tell us there is gold galore in the country; the newspapers announce great rushes of miners to the Selkirks, or transfers of gold claims and the like; yet after the year's clearing up, behold! the result is fewer ounces than the preceding year. Now, gold is a mineral for which there is always a sale at a fixed rate. Fashion does not increase or diminish the demand, nor does it send the price up or down in unison with its freaks. Why, then, is it that the tendency of the production in Canada is constantly downwards?

579. The same question may be asked respecting silver.

580. When we turn to non-metallic mineral products, we find a total increase in 1892, as compared with the average of the six preceding years, of \$1,885,000, though a decrease of \$1,125,000, as compared with 1891.

581. Examining details, we find that asbestos showed a decrease of nearly 300 tons in 1892, as compared with the six years' average; that coal showed an increase of 527,600 tons over the six years' average, but a decrease of over 300,000 tons, as compared with 1891; that coke showed an increase of 8,000 tons, in comparison with the six years' average, but a slight decrease, in comparison with 1891; gypsum showed an increase over the average of 36,000 tons; mica showed an extraordinary development, having reached a value of \$100,923 in 1892, against an average yearly value during six years of \$43,000. On the other hand, phosphates, which had an annual average of 25,000 tons in the six years, dropped in 1892 to 11,932 tons. Petroleum increased from a yearly average of 690,709 barrels to 779,753 barrels, the production of 1892. The production of salt decreased in 1892 by 5,000 tons, as compared with the previous six years' average.