

MINERALS.

Mineral Statistics.—The results of the census of mineral production, taken in 1911, were published in the Year Book of 1913 (pages 196–199). In the present edition the Canadian statistics given are limited to those of the Dominion Government and of the Departments of Mines of the Provincial Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. To the statistics of production in this section have been added statements of the imports of Portland cement (Table 66), of the imports of anthracite and bituminous coal (Table 67) and of the exports of coal (Table 68).

Dominion Department of Mines.—According to the annual preliminary report of the Division of Mineral Resources and Statistics of the Dominion Department of Mines, the total value of the metal and mineral production of 1916 was \$177,357,454, as compared with \$137,109,171, the finally revised figures of 1915. This is an increase of \$40,248,283, or 29.3 p.c. The previous maximum value of the mineral production was \$145,634,812 in 1913.

The war has had a pronounced effect not only in stimulating the production of those metals such as nickel, copper and zinc, iron and steel, molybdenum, etc., which are used extensively for war purposes, but also in increasing the production of other products such as chromite and magnesite which can only now be obtained with difficulty, if at all, from sources previously available. The general industrial activity in metallurgical operations and in the manufacture generally of munitions of all kinds, including the freight movements required, have in turn increased the demand for fuel, which has been met in Western Canada at least by large increases in coal production. Increased production in quantity has in most instances been accompanied by large increases in prices, thus further enhancing the total value of the production. Considerable progress has been made during the year in establishing and increasing smelting and refining capacities of which the installation of electrolytic zinc and copper refineries at Trail, and the beginning of the construction of a nickel refinery at Port Colborne, Ont., are conspicuous examples. In addition, mention should be made of the production of metallic magnesium at Shawinigan Falls, of ferro-molybdenum at Orillia and Belleville, of metallic arsenic at Thorold, and of stellite, the cobalt alloy for high speed tool metal, at Deloro, and of the increased capacity for the production of steel, particularly the installation of electric furnaces. The mining output has been restricted and the efficiency of its operation considerably reduced by the withdrawal for war service of a large proportion of the more highly experienced labour and engineering supervision. Higher costs have tended to offset the advantages to be derived from higher prices of output and in the case of gold mining have been a distinct burden.

Increase or Decrease in Principal Products, 1916.—From Table 48 it will be noted that there has been an increased production of nearly all metals, with the exception of lead and silver. The total value of the metallic production in 1916 was \$107,040,035, as compared with \$75,814,841 in 1915, an increase of \$31,225,194, or 41.2 p.c. The total value of the non-metallic production, including clay and quarry products, in