

Non-metallic products. The principal non-metallic products were Portland cement 2,303,263 barrels, worth \$2,897,348, natural gas \$1,188,179, petroleum 14,723,105 gallons, worth \$559,478, brick \$2,480,418, stone \$459,730, lime \$470,858, salt \$389,573, etc. The total value of the non-metallic production was \$9,852,609.

Discovery of gold in Porcupine district. Gold was discovered in the neighbourhood of Porcupine lake, north of the height of land and west of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, in the summer of 1909. It occurs in veins of quartz from 18 inches to 25 feet and over in width. Some of the veins show free gold in large quantity. If the developments now in progress show the values to continue in depth there will be a good gold camp at Porcupine.

Presentation to Canada of historical despatches. During the year the Archives Branch of the Department of Agriculture received as a gift from the British Government thirty-five volumes of original despatches from the Governors of Canada to the Home Government, covering the period from 1780 to 1840, and relating principally to Lower Canada; and twelve volumes relating to Upper Canada between the years 1791 and 1830. These despatches with their enclosures are invaluable to the student of Canadian history.

Canadian postal service. The estimated number of prepaid letters posted in Canada during the year ended March 31 1909 was 414,301,000, as compared with 396,011,000 in 1908, an increase of 18,290,000 or 4.6 per cent. Owing to growth of the postal service the expenditure showed an increase during the fiscal year of \$586,456; but there was still a surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to \$809,238 as compared with the previous year's surplus of \$1,101,826. Postage stamps were sold to the value of \$9,216,011 as against \$8,685,370 in 1908, an increase of \$530,641 or about 6.1 per cent. A feature of the year was the issue of the tercentenary series of stamps with designs connected with the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Champlain. The demand for these new stamps was extraordinary, the sales reaching 62,634,200 in number and \$1,202,140 in value.

Fête of the Universal Postal Union. An international fête in celebration of the inauguration of the Universal Postal Union in 1875 was held at Berne from October 4-7, when the Dominion of Canada was represented by the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General. The proceedings included the unveiling of a commemorative statue, the design of which consists of the terrestrial globe partially enveloped in a cloud from which are issuing allegorical figures representing Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania in the act of interchanging communications.

Reduction in ocean parcels post rates. A reduction has been effected in the parcels post rates between Canada and the United Kingdom by which from January 1 1910 the charge for parcels will be an uniform rate of 12 cents per pound or fraction of a pound, with a maximum weight per parcel of 11 pounds, instead of the previous rate of