

MINERALS.

Sources of Mineral Statistics.—Mineral statistics are available from various independent official sources. On July 21, 1913, the Census and Statistics Office published as Bulletin XVI the results of the Census of Mineral Production taken in 1911. The Mines Department of the Dominion Government publishes an Annual Report of Mineral Production, and Annual Reports are also published by the Departments of Mines of the Provincial Governments of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Data derived from each of these sources were given in this section of the Year Book of 1913 (pp. 196-211), but in the present edition the statistics given are limited to those of the Dominion and provincial Departments of Mines.

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 mineral products of Canada in the calendar year 1914 was \$128,475,499, as compared with \$145,634,812, the finally revised total of 1913. This is a decrease of \$17,159,313, or 11.8 p.c. The average production per capita was \$15.91, as against \$18.77 in 1913, \$18.27 in 1912 and \$14.93 in 1910. From Table 52, showing the quantities and values of minerals produced in 1913 and 1914, with the increase or decrease in value for each, it will be observed that there has been a general falling off in the production of nearly all mine products, the notable exceptions being pyrites, salt and natural gas. The falling off in the production of the metals is no doubt to be ascribed in large measure to the conditions resulting from the war. Especially is this true in the case of copper, nickel and silver. The cutting off of markets and the closing of metal exchanges, with the consequent cessation of market quotations resulted in the almost immediate closing down or restriction of operation at many properties. However, before the close of the year many of these adverse conditions had been adjusted, although prices had fallen considerably.

Mineral Products in 1914.—The total value of the metallic production in 1914 was \$58,870,028, as against \$66,361,351 in 1913, a decrease of \$7,491,323, or 11 p.c. Non-metallic products also show a large falling off in 1914, the total value for the year being \$69,605,471, as against \$79,273,461 in 1913, a decrease of \$9,667,990, or 12.19 p.c. The decrease is most pronounced in the case of coal, asbestos and gypsum and in products generally classed as structural materials, such as cement, building brick, sewer pipe and lime.