

## 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, New Brunswick, 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 metal mining industry has, in 1915, as a result of the demand created by the war, shown the highest production ever recorded; and notwithstanding the greatly decreased production of materials of construction, such as cement, clay and stone quarry products, a very large increase is still shown in the total mineral output over that of the previous year. The total value of the metal and mineral production in 1915, as shown in the preliminary report, was \$138,513,750, as compared with \$128,863,075 in 1914 and \$145,634,812 in 1913, the latter being the highest production then recorded. The increase in 1915 over 1914 was thus \$9,650,675, or 7.49 p.c., but the output is still less than that of 1913 by \$7,121,062. The demand for the metals, copper, lead, nickel and zinc, led to great activity in the operation of the already developed deposits of these metals, and also, later in the year, to the opening up of old and the exploitation of new deposits. The capacities of steel furnaces were taxed to the utmost to meet the demand for shell steel. Amongst non-metallic minerals the recovery of benzol and toluol in by-product coke oven operations was a direct result of the war, as was also the activity in the mining and shipment of magnesite and of chrome ores.

**Increase or Decrease in Principal Products, 1915.**—It will be observed from Table 49 that there has been an increased production in all metals with the exception of silver. The total value of the metallic production in 1915 was \$77,646,082, as compared with \$59,386,619 in 1914, and \$66,361,351 in 1913, the increase over 1914 being nearly 30 p.c., and over 1913, the previous highest year, about 16 p.c. The production of nickel, copper and zinc are the highest that have been recorded in these metals. The quantity of nickel was 50 p.c. greater than in 1914, copper was over 35 p.c. greater, lead nearly 25 p.c. greater, gold over 18 p.c. and pig iron nearly 17 p.c. The falling off in silver was only 48,000 ounces or less than two-tenths of one per cent. Owing to the high prices of copper and lead the total values of these metals show increases of 72 p.c. and 56 p.c. respectively. Compared with 1914 the average price of copper shows an increase of 154 p.c., antimony (ordinaries) an increase of 246 p.c., silver a decrease of 9.4 p.c. and tin an increase of 12.2 p.c. The total value of the non-metallic produc-