

MINERAL PRODUCTS.
Statement of the Amount and Value of the Mineral Products of the U. S. for 1885.

The following condensed statement of the mineral production of the United States in the calendar year 1885 is from advance proof-sheets of a report shortly to be issued by the United States Geological Survey. This volume will be the third of the series known as "Mineral Resources" reports, prepared by the division of mining statistics and technology.

Coal.—The total commercial product of coal of all kinds in 1885, exclusive of that consumed at the mines, known as colliery consumption, was 95,844,795 long tons, valued at \$152,015,108. Of this 32,265,421 long tons were Pennsylvania anthracite, valued at \$72,284,544; while of other coals, including bituminous, brown coal, lignite, and small lots of anthracite produced outside of Pennsylvania, the production was 63,579,374 long tons, valued at \$80,730,564 at the points of production. The total production including colliery consumption was: Pennsylvania anthracite, 32,265,421 long tons, all other coals 63,579,374 long tons, making the total absolute production of the coal mines of the United States 95,844,795 long tons, valued as follows: Anthracite, \$76,671,948; bituminous, \$32,348,648; total \$109,020,596. The total production (including local consumption) of anthracite was 7,052,892 tons in excess of that of 1884, and its value was \$10,320,426 greater. The total production of bituminous coal was 3,889,871 tons less than in 1884, but its value was \$4,070,582 greater. The total production of coal of all kinds shows a net loss in tonnage of 7,837,079 long tons compared with that of 1884, but a gain in value of \$15,251,018, the increase in value being due to an average increase of 25 cents per long ton. The total value is about the same as that of 1883.

Coke.—The total production of coke in 1885 was 5,166,696 short tons, valued at \$7,629,118. Of this Pennsylvania produced 78 per cent., or 3,991,895 tons, valued at \$4,981,656. The remainder was produced by fourteen states and territories. The maximum production of coke in the United States was reached in 1883, when 5,464,721 tons were made. This declined in 1884 to 4,873,805 tons. The production of 1885 shows a gain upon that of 1884, being within 300,000 tons of the make in 1883.

Petroleum.—The total production was 21,842,041 barrels of 42 gallons, of which the Pennsylvania and New York fields produced 20,776,041 barrels. The total value, at an average price of 87 1/2 cents per barrel, was \$19,193,694. The production showed a decrease of 2,247,717 barrels and \$1,282,609 in value from 1884.

Natural gas.—No record is kept of the yield in cubic feet. The amount of coal displaced by gas in 1885 was 3,161,600 tons, valued at \$4,854,200. In 1884 the coal displaced was valued at \$1,460,000. The yield has increased ten-fold since 1883.

Iron.—The principal statistics of 1885 were: Domestic iron ore consumed, 7,600,000 long tons; value at mine, \$19,000,000. Imported iron ore consumed, 300,786 long tons; total iron ore consumed, 7,900,786 long tons; pig iron made, 4,944,326 long tons; a decrease of 53,343 tons as compared with 1884; value at furnace, \$64,712,400, or \$9,049,224 less than in 1884. Total spot value of all iron and steel in the first stage of manufacture, excluding all duplication, \$93,000,000, a decline of \$14,000,000 from 1884.

Gold and Silver.—The mint authorities estimate the value of the gold produced in 1885 at \$31,801,000, an increase of \$1,001,000 over 1884. The production of silver is similarly estimated at \$51,600,000, an increase of \$2,800,000 over 1884.

Copper.—The production in 1884 including 5,086,841 pounds made from imported pyrites, was 170,962,607 pounds, valued in New York at \$18,292,999 at the average price of 10.7 cents per pound. The increase in pounds over 1884 was 25,740,667; in value, \$503,312.

Lead.—Production, 129,412 short tons. Total value, at an average price of \$81 per short ton at the Atlantic coast, \$10,469,431, a decline of 10,485 tons and \$67,611 in value from the product of 1884. The production of white lead is estimated at 60,000 short tons, worth, at 5 1/4 cts. per pound, \$6,300,000.

Zinc.—The production of metallic zinc in 1885 was 40,688 short tons, valued at \$3,539,859 at an average value of 4.35 cents per pound, an increase of 2144 tons and \$117,149 in value over 1884. Zinc was also made from the ore directly into zinc white (zinc oxide) to the extent of 15,000 short tons, valued at \$1,050,000.

Quicksilver.—Production, 32,073 flasks (of 7 1/2 pounds net), or 160 flasks more than in 1884. Total value, at an average of \$50.33 per flask at San Francisco, \$979,189, an increase of \$12,864 over 1884. The production of quicksilver vermilion was about 600,000 pounds, the same as in 1884, but the price advanced to 52 cents per pound, making the total value \$312,000.

Nickel.—The production of metallic or "grain" nickel was 245,504 pounds, valued at \$169,397. In addition, matte and ore containing

32,400 pounds of nickel were exported. Total value of all nickel, \$190,000.

Cobalt.—The amount of cobalt oxide was 8423 pounds, valued at \$19,373. The total value of cobalt in ore, matte, and the above oxide was \$65,373.

Manganese.—The production of manganese ores was 23,258 long tons, valued at \$190,281. Manganiferous iron ore, 3237 long tons, valued at \$17,318. Total value, \$207,599.

Chromium.—The production of chrome iron ore was 2700 long tons, valued at \$40,000. The consumption for making potassium and sodium bi-chromates increased markedly, due to imports of chrome iron ore from Asia Minor.

Tin.—Probably 200 tons of "black tin" ore were made at the concentrating works at the Etta mine in Dakota. No smelting works have yet been erected.

Platinum.—The amount of crude platinum mined in 1885 was about 250 troy ounces, valued at \$187,500. This is exclusive of about 300 ozs. of iridosmine, for pointing pens.

Aluminum.—The production of metallic aluminum increased from 1800 troy ounces in 1884 to 3400 ounces in 1885, valued at \$2,550. Aluminum bronze, containing 10 per cent. aluminum, was made to the amount of about 4500 pounds, valued at \$1800.

Building Stone.—Value, \$19,000,000 about the same as in 1884. Brick and Tile.—The demand and consequent production increased to an estimated value of \$35,000,000 in 1885.

Lime.—With the price constant at 50 cents per barrel at the kilns, the production increased from 37,000,000 barrels in 1884 to 40,000,000 in 1885.

Cement.—The production of cement from natural rock increased to 4,000,000 barrels of 300 pounds each but was valued at only \$3,200,000. Artificial Portland cement amounted to 150,000 barrels of 400 pounds each, with a total value of \$202,500. The total production of cement of all kinds was 4,150,000 barrels, valued at \$3,492,500, against \$3,720,000 in 1884.

Precious Stones.—The value of American precious stones produced in 1885 was \$69,900. This includes \$42,800 for stones sold as specimens and souvenirs and \$27,100 for stones to be cut into gems. Besides this, gold quartz, with an estimated value of \$140,000, was sold for specimens and for ornaments and jewelry.

Millstones.—The trade in millstones of all kinds has decreased markedly from the introduction of roller mills. The total value of the Esopus millstones in New York and Calico stone in Pennsylvania did not exceed \$100,000 in 1885.

Grindstones.—Estimated value of the product for 1885, \$500,000. (Continued next week.)

The Postal Service. Estimates of the expenses of the postal service for the next fiscal year aggregate \$55,342,150, while appropriations for the current year were \$54,365,863, showing an increase in the estimates for next year of \$976,287. It is estimated that the ordinary revenue for the next fiscal year is \$49,062,598, and revenue from the money order system \$650,000, making the total estimated revenue \$50,612,598. The estimated deficiency in receipts, as compared with expenditures during next year, is placed at \$47,295,54, while it is estimated that the current fiscal year will show a deficiency of \$74,439,14.

A New Potatoe. An acceptable addition to our table supplies comes in the shape of a new potato which has recently been discovered in Bolivia by a Mr. Sacc. The value to alimentation of this new tuber may be judged from the facts that it is the most farinaceous of its species and yields four crops per annum. The Indians esteem it highly and call it "papa purca." These potatoes grow numerous bulbs, ten to fifteen in a bunch, from one seedling, and the manifold stalks are covered from base to top with soft, beautiful leaves, brilliant with a lovely yellowish green. The tubers weigh from 100 to 250 grammes and contain 20 per cent. of fecula and 72 per cent. of water. The American General Section of the Universal Union of Culinary Art, at its last session, made several culinary experiments with the new potato, which proved very satisfactory. —[N. Y. Star.]

The Agricultural Bureau reports that the corn crop of 1886 will reach the sum total of 1,650,000,000 bushels at an average of 22 bushels per acre. The average yield on 37,000,000 acres of wheat is 12 1/4 bushels per acre, giving a total of 453,250,000 bushels; the home consumption is about 80 per cent. leaving only about 90,000,000 bushels for export. Oregon averages 12 1/2 bushels per acre, New York, 17; Kentucky, Kansas and California, 11.5; and Dakota 10.5, being the lowest of any wheat growing section.

One apple tree well nourished is worth ten gnarled and starved by years of neglect, for its fruit will be more fair, more abundant and far more satisfactory in use.

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