IRON ORE PRODUCTION

Report of the Geological Survey For Last Year.

The production of iron ores in the United States during the year 1901, as given by Mr. John Birkinbine in Mineral Resources of the United States, 1901, now in press, United States Geological Survey, David T. Day, chief of division, amounted to 28,887,479 long tons, as compared with 27,553,161 long tons in 1900, a gain of 1,334,318 long tons, or five per cent; the gain of 1901 over 1898 was 9,453,763 tons, or forty-nine per cent, a phenomenal growth. The total value at the mines of the ore mined in 1901, as reported to this office, was $49,256,245, or a mean value of $1.71 per ton, an apparent decrease of 71 cents, or twenty-nine per cent, from the 1900 figures of $2 42 per ton. The value of the iron ores mined in 1900 was $66,590,504. The largest amounts of iron ores officially reported to date, from any other countries, are 18,667,950 long tons, mined in Germany and Luxemburg in 1900, and 18,031,957 long tons mined in Great Britain in 1882.

Twenty-five states and one territory mined iron ore in the year 1901, the number of producing states remaining the same as in 1900, Utah dropping out and South Carolina taking its place. As in the year 1900, Minnesota contributed the greater portion of the increase for 1901, and advanced to first place as a producer, Michigan, which has uninterruptedly occupied this position since the year 1881, now being second.

New exploitations for standard ores in the Lake Superior district are being actively carried on, and in addition, some siliceous and lower grade ores, of which large quantities exist, are liberally exploited. In the central west, valuable deposits of iron ore in Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico are being worked extensively to supply the Colorado furnaces. On the Pacific coast, the Irondale furnace in Washington has resumed operations, but its principal reliance so far has been on the magnetite deposits of Texada island, in British Columbia.

In 1901 the red hematite mines contributed 24,006,025 long tons, or 83.10 per cent of the total for the United States, an increase of six per cent over the 1900 total. Minnesota was the largest producer of this class of ore, followed by Michigan and Alabama. The total brown hematite mined was 3,016,715 long tons, or 10.44 per cent of the output of the country, a decrease of seven per cent from the 1900 record. Virginia and West Virginia, combined, lead as a brown hematite producer, followed by Alabama and Tennessee. Of magnetic ores, 1,813,076 long tons, or 6.28 per cent of the United States total, were mined in the year 1901, an increase of eighteen per cent over the total for 1900. Pennsylvania was the principal producer, followed by New Jersey and New York. Only 51,663 long tons of carbonate iron ore was mined in 1901, being 0.18 per cent of the total iron ore output for the year. Practically all of this came from Ohio, although Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania contributed small amounts.

In the thirteen years since the year 1889, when the United States Geological Survey began collecting the statistics of the amounts of the different classes of iron ore mined, the red hematites have contributed 180,551,009 long tons, or 76.85 per cent of the total; the brown hematite mines, 30,945,504 long tons, or 13.17 per cent; the magnetic deposits, 21,524,693 long tons, or 9.16 per cent, and the carbonate ores, only 1,926,668 long tons, or 0.82 per cent of the total.

The greater part of the iron ore in the United States continues to be supplied by the Lake Superior region, which produced its maximum output of 21,445,903 long tons in 1901, being seventy-four per cent of the total quantity reported and an increase of four per cent over the total for 1900. The Marquette range, in the state of Michigan, from which ore was first taken in 1856, has contributed up to date 62,847,473 long tons. Most of his ore is shipped from the ports of Marquette and Escanaba. The Menominee, in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, was the second range to be opened, in 1877, and it has contributed to date 37,621,428 long tons, the greater portion being shipped from Escanaba and a small amount from Gladstone. The Gogebic range, in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, and the Vermilion range, in Minnesota, began shipping in 1884, the Gogebic range having shipped to date 34,154,790 long tons from the ports of Ashland and Escanaba, and the Vermilion range having shipped to date 16,977,243 tons from the port of Two Harbors. The Mesabi range in Minnesota began shipping in the year 1894 and has shipped thus far a total of 40,404,967 long tons, and has now apparently greater resources of ore than any of the older ranges. In 1901 this range produced 9,303,541 tons, or thirty-two per cent of the total for the United States. A sixth range was opened in Canada in the year 1900, the ore being shipped principally to the United States from the port of Michipicoten, in the Province of Ontario, and the total output to the close of 1901 amounting to 284,679 tons.

From the above it appears that in the year 1901 the Mesabi range ranked first, producing its maximum output of 9,303,541 long tons, a total that has never been reached by any other iron ore region in the world, the Billboa district in Spain being its closest competitor.

Taking the states in the order of their production, we find that Minnesota contributed 11,169,537 long tons, or thirty-eight per cent of the total for the United States, and is easily entitled to first place. In fact, with the exception of the German Empire and Great Britain, no country in the world has reached so great a total in any year as the state of Minnesota in 1901, and this phenomenal product exceeded by 3,989,175 long tons the production of iron ore of all the mines combined, as reported by the tenth census of the United States in 1880. Michigan ranks next, with a total of 9,654,067 long tons of iron ore, a decrease of three per cent from the total of 1900. Alabama ranks third, with a production in 1901 of 2,801,732 long tons, with nearly ten per cent of total. Pennsylvania regained fourth place, contributing 1,030,684 tons, an increase of nineteen per cent over the state total for 1900. Virginia and West Virginia, combined, ranked fifth, mining 925,394 tons, an increase of nearly four per cent over their total for 1900. Tennessee increased her output thirty-three per cent over the total of 1900, and ranked sixth with 789,491 tons. Wisconsin came seventh, with 738,868 tons. New York was eighth, with 420,218 tons, a decrease of five per cent from the state total of 1900. Colorado ranked ninth, with a total of 404,037 tons, a decrease of nearly one per cent from the state production of 1900. Some of the Colorado ores carry enough silver to make them valuable on that account, and therefore they are not included in this report. New Jersey came tenth, 401,989 tons, an advance of seventeen per cent upon the 1900 output. Georgia and the two Carolinas together contributed 215,599 long tons of iron ore, and none of the remaining states, except Wyoming, produced over 100,000 tons of iron ore.

The highest average value reported in 1901 was $3.18 per ton, in Colorado; the lowest average rate was in Alabama—92 cents per ton.

The total stock of iron ore in the United States, reported as on hand at the mines on December 31, 1901, was 4,239,823 long tons, an increase of fourteen per cent over the 1900 total, and of this total Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin carried ninety-four per cent.

The Cuban iron ore deposits occur in the southeastern part of the island, along the Caribbean Sea, the principal operations being in the province of Santiago de Cuba. All these properties are owned and operated by United States companies, and practically all of the ore is brought to this country.

The imports for 1901 were 552,248 long tons, as compared with 446,872 long tons in 1900. The total imports into the United States of iron ore in 1901 amounted to 966,950 long tons, valued at $1,659,273, or $1.72 per ton, an increase of 7.7 per cent over the imports for 1900. The greater portion of this ore was received at the ports of Baltimore and Philadelphia, the amount for the two being 782,290 tons, or eighty-one per cent of the total.

Nearly all of the iron ores exported from this county during the year 1901, 64,703 long tons, was sent to Canadian blast furnaces, which used these ores as a portion of the mixture fed to the furnaces.

Rates Again Reduced From All Points East.

Before you make definate arrangements for that trip east let us quote you rates via the Illinois Central railroad. Our rates are the lowest to be had, and it will pay you to write us. If you haven't time to communicate with us, tell the agent from whom you purchase your ticket that you want to travel by the way of the Illinois Central, and you will never regret the trip. If any of your relatives or friends in the east are coming west while the low rates are in effect, write us about them, and we will see that they get the lowest rates with the best service. Through tourist cars, free reclining chair cars—in fact all the latest conveniences known to modern railroading. For particulars regarding rates, time, service, stop-overs, different connection and routes, etc, call on or address, B. F. TRUMBULL, Com'l. Agt. 142 Third street, Portland, Oregon.

Best brands of cigars at Hoffman's Bakery.

Butter, eggs and milk at The Market.

Use Giant powder, fuse and caps.