

MINERAL PRODUCTION.**United States Geological Survey Report for 1901.**

The volume of Mineral Resources of the United States for the calendar year 1901, David T. Day, chief of division, now in press, United States Geological Survey, presents an interesting and valuable summary of the mineral production of 1901, as compared with the corrected statistics for other recent years.

In 1901, for the second time the total value of our mineral production exceeded the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000, the exact figures being \$1,086,529,521, as compared with \$1,063,620,548 in 1900, and with \$972,152,208 in 1899, a gain of 1901 over 1900 of \$22,908,973, or 2.15 per cent, and a gain of 1901 over 1899 of \$114,377,313, or 11.77 per cent.

The notable gains and losses of the last two decades are as follows:

The largest actual gain was that of 1899 over 1898, \$273,001,810, or 39.17 per cent; next to that of 1900 over 1899, \$91,468,340, or 9.41 per cent; then the gain of 1895 over 1894, which was \$94,215,822, or 17.88 per cent, and the gain of 1887 over 1886, \$74,927,880, or 16.81 per cent. In other years than those mentioned between 1880 and 1898 the gains were not noteworthy, and in some of the years, notably in 1884, the production decreased \$40,451,968, or nearly nine per cent. During the industrial depression of 1892-95 the production would have been expected to decline, as it did, going from \$648,895,031 in 1892 to \$574,464,724 in 1893; to \$527,079,225 in 1894, and then rising to \$621,205,047 in 1895, and not reaching the output of 1892 until 1898.

As heretofore, iron and coal are the most important of our mineral products. The value of iron in 1901 was \$242,174,000, as compared with \$259,944,000 in 1900, and the value of coal was \$348,910,469, as compared with \$306,671,364 in 1900.

It is to be noted that the total amount of time lost from strikes in the coal industry in 1901 was only 733,802 working days, as compared with 4,878,102 working days lost from strikes in 1900, with 2,124,154 days thus lost in 1899, and with something like 20,000,000 working days thus far lost in 1902 from the same cause.

All of the important metals decreased in both output and value, with the exception of the production of pig iron and zinc, and among the less important metals the most remarkable increase both in quantity and value was made in platinum: 1408 ounces valued at \$27,526, as compared with 400 ounces valued at \$2500 in 1900, a gain of 1001 per cent in value. The fuels increased from \$406,359,351 in 1900 to \$442,395,304 in 1901, a gain of \$36,035,953, or 8.87 per cent. Every variety of fuel increased in value except petroleum, which showed an increase in quantity of 5,768,665 barrels, but a decline of \$9,571,978, due largely to the less valuable character of the increased product of the new petroleum fields as compared with the older fields. Anthracite coal increased 9,021,207 long tons in output and \$26,746,169 in value. The average price of anthracite coal per ton at the mine was \$2.05, the highest figure obtained since 1888, as compared with \$1.85 in 1900 and \$1.80 in 1899; and the average price per ton for bituminous coal at the mine was \$1.05, about one cent more per ton than in 1900.

The gain of \$22,908,973 is due entirely to the increase in the nonmetallic products, since the metallic products showed a decline from \$550,425,286 in 1900 to \$518,268,377 in 1901, a loss of \$32,156,909, whereas the nonmetallic products in-

creased from \$512,195,262 in 1900 to \$567,261,444 in 1901, a gain of \$55,066,182. To these products should be added estimated unspecified products, including the rare minerals, lithium, tungsten, vanadium, granium, etc. Bismuth and crystalline quartz, valued at \$1,000,000, making the total mineral production for 1901, \$1,086,529,521.

For the first time since 1884 the production of bismuth in the United States is noted in this report. The manufacture of arsenious oxide was taken up for the first time in the United States, in 1901, by the Puget Sound Reduction company, at Everett, Washington, when an output of 300 short tons was placed on the market. For the first time also, in 1901, the production of rutile on a large scale was realized by the American Rutile company from the deposits in Nelson county, Virginia, whose output amounted to about 40,000 pounds.

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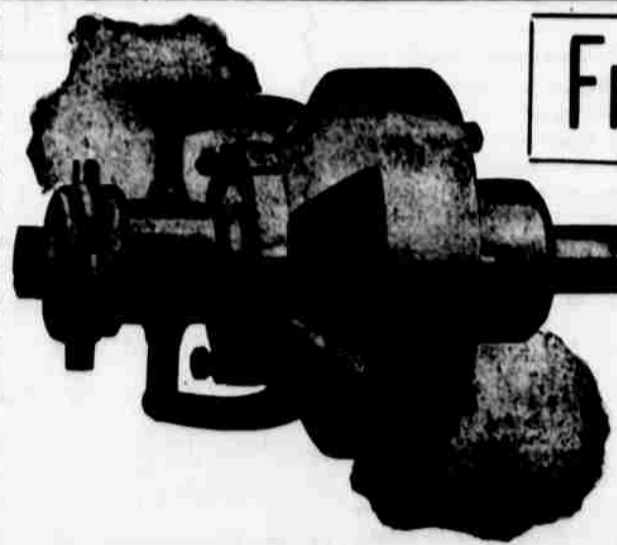
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