

## SUMMARIZED DATA OF COPPER PRODUCTION

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### SOURCES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PRODUCTION DATA

Because the facts of production illuminate so many aspects of metal economics they are sought by many people studying a great variety of problems. Mine accountants and managers, company presidents and stockholders, commercial and governmental agencies, technical and trade journals, associations of producers, and various professional and scientific societies demand sundry reports of production at brief intervals. At the end of each year estimates of the quantities of metals produced are made promptly, and corrected figures follow a few months later. The fact that such importance is attached to current production data might indicate that the long-time record of production would be studied also. This, however, is not the case.

For such studies the facts of production from at least the early years of the nineteenth century are desirable, as they serve to link the steadily expanding production of that century with the relatively small production of all previous centuries; but for most of the metals no such record is available. Details of world production of most metals previous to the middle of the last century are decidedly sketchy, and even subsequent to that time the record leaves much to be desired.

In 1883 the first volume of Mineral Resources of the United States, covering our domestic production for 1882, was published. Since 1882 records on the production of metals by the United States have been carefully compiled in Mineral Resources, but foreign production has been given less attention. For some years the compilation of copper production issued by Henry R. Merton & Co. (Ltd.), of London, was accepted for all foreign countries by Mineral Resources, and until 1914 the Merton figures were adopted with only slight changes.

Likewise, the Metallgesellschaft and the Metallurgische Gesellschaft, of Frankfort, began compiling statistics only in the latter part of the last century and for some years used the Merton figures for copper.