

The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau of London and the American Bureau of Metal Statistics of New York were established even more recently.

The first Copper Handbook, issued by Horace Stevens in 1900, contains some very interesting observations on world production of copper. They are based upon data, compiled by R. Gervase Elwas, that appeared in the London Financial News of January, 1900.

About the same time, A Century of Copper, by Nicol Brown and Charles C. Turnbull, was published in London. This valuable compilation has been used in this report as the source of "Production by decades" previous to the year 1881.

Study of the long-time aspects of metal production is rendered especially difficult by the resemblance of the record to a mosaic, the fragments of which are characterized by the different units of weight used. Consequently, the facts often can not be obtained without spending more effort in the conversion of figures from one unit to another than would be practicable.

The present paper does not attempt to discover and publish data that have lain hidden in musty records. Changes that might be made in the production record through such research would be of slight practical importance. The service undertaken here merely includes: (1) A systematic review of recognized sources of information; (2) the selection of data that appear to be acceptable and reasonably accurate; (3) the conversion of figures, when necessary, from long tons, pounds, or metric tons to a single unit, the short ton—the short ton is the only unit of weight used throughout this paper; (4) orderly arrangement of the information obtained; and (5) illustration of the information by suitable diagrams and a few brief comments.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The senior author acknowledges the extensive assistance rendered in the preparation of this paper by Elmer W. Pehrson, mineral economist, and Lewis A. Smith, associate mineral economist, and the cordial cooperation of all other members of the common metals division.

To Scott Turner, director of the Bureau of Mines, and C. P. White, chief of the economics branch, thanks are due for suggestions, assistance, and appreciation of the importance of the task of bringing together the fundamental data of mineral production.

WORLD PRODUCTION—TOTAL AMOUNTS AND RATES OF INCREASE

A general summary of copper production suitable for study from many viewpoints can be combined in a single table. (See Table 26, p. 32.) The several aspects of such a subject, however, are difficult to fully grasp at one time. Accordingly, the data have been selected