

PRINCIPAL COPPER-PRODUCING COUNTRIES

The following brief resumé of production from each of the principal copper-producing countries concludes the present treatment of copper production. A subsequent paper on sources and resources of copper will contain an account of the principal copper-producing districts and mines.

UNITED STATES

The increase in copper production in the United States during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century was even more remarkable than the large increase in world production. During the six decades ending with 1920 the average increase per decade in world production was 60.1 per cent. During the same period the average increase in the United States production was 145.8 per cent.

The United States began to produce copper in the decade ending with 1850; the quantity produced was less than 1 per cent of the world total. Following that decade, however, the increase was rapid up to the end of the nineteenth century, during the last decade of which the United States produced about 52 per cent of the world total. Since then the relation of the United States production to that of the world has remained fairly constant. The United States production is 48.4 per cent of the total world production from 1801 to 1927, inclusive.

United States production by decades, by five-year periods, and by years is shown in Tables 8, 9, and 10 and Figures 11 and 12.

TABLE 8.—Smelter production of copper in the United States by decades (short tons)

Period	Production	Annual average	Increase in annual average	
			Amount, tons	Per cent ¹
1845-1850.....	2,688	448	-----	-----
1851-1860.....	41,496	4,150	3,702	826.3
1861-1870.....	109,252	10,925	6,775	163.3
1871-1880.....	210,560	21,056	10,131	92.7
1881-1890.....	820,404	82,040	60,984	289.6
1891-1900.....	2,174,356	217,436	135,396	165.0
1901-1910.....	4,281,715	428,172	210,736	96.9
1911-1920.....	7,160,559	716,056	287,884	67.2

¹ Average annual increase per decade for the last six decades is 145.8 per cent.