INTRODUCTION.

This volume is intended to show the progress made in the development of the mineral resources of the United States in 1892. The statistical tables of previous years are carried forward from former reports of the series, of which this is the ninth. For general information concerning any mineral the volumes should be consulted together.

ARRANGEMENT.

As in preceding volumes the book is divided by mineral topics, which take the place of chapters. These are so arranged as to bring kindred subjects together.

UNITS.

The most customary units in the trades are used. The objection to the great diversity of units thus occasioned is acknowledged, but the system is the best one for those most interested.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

This work is the result of a census conducted by the principal experts in each subject. Their names are usually given at the head of the chapters which they contribute.

Especial acknowledgments are due, first, to the producers, who, as a rule, place their confidential returns at the disposal of the Survey, and many of whom devote much valuable time to special inquiries as to the condition of trade.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department is to be credited with all the statistics of imports and exports.