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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., July 7, 1904.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on mines and quarries and petroleum and natural-gas wells for the year ending December 31, 1902. This report contains the statistics of the Twelfth Census of the mining industries of the United States. At all prior censuses the mining industries have been enumerated at the same time as the population, manufactures, and agriculture, but the date of the enumeration was changed by the act of Congress of March 6, 1902, which provides that the statistics relating to mines, mining, quarries, and minerals, should be collected decennially after the completion and return of the enumeration and of the work upon the schedules relating to the products of agriculture and to manufacturing and mechanical establishments.

The mining census was conducted in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey, the statistics being collected in connection with the data required for the annual report of the mineral resources of the United States. The objects of this collaboration were to avoid duplication of the fieldwork and the necessity of calling on the mine operators for duplicate reports; also to obtain harmonious results for the two offices. The totals for the two offices agree, with the exception of a few minerals, for which the Geological Survey includes manufacturing processes carried on entirely distinct from the mining operations, and in some instances where that office calls for the product marketed or sold instead of that produced during the year.

Mining industries are frequently carried on by establishments engaged in both mining and manufacturing, and for statistical purposes it is often impossible to separate the operations. The report on manufactures for the Twelfth Census includes the statistics for all products that could be considered as the results of manufacturing processes, and such products have, as far as possible, been excluded from this report. It would add to the value of these statistics if the mining and manufacturing industries were covered by the same enumeration and the total presented as the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the country. Under the existing law it is impossible to compile such a total for the same year for all branches of industry.

This report has been prepared in the division of manufactures, under the supervision of Mr. William M. Steuart, chief statistician for manufactures, assisted by Mr. Joseph D. Lewis, chief of division. I desire also to acknowledge the services of the efficient force of the Geological Survey that worked under the supervision of Dr. David T. Day, chief of the division of mining and mineral resources, and of Mr. William A. Countryman, of this Bureau, who assisted in the preparation of the textual discussion.

Very respectfully,

S. N. D. North

Director.

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.