

THE MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Statistical Statement of the Production of Last Year.

We have to acknowledge an advance copy of the summary of the mineral production of Canada for the past year, as prepared by Mr. E. D. Ingall for the head of the Geological Department, Dr. G. M. Dawson. The appearance of this valuable and useful document earlier than usual in previous years is credited to the efforts of Mr. L. L. Brophy, the statistical assistant to the section. It is explained, in the introduction, that the figures given are not final, but they may be taken as practically correct.

The metallic products and values are as follows:

Copper, 9,385,556 lbs.	\$1,021,148
Gold.....	2,810,206
Iron Ore, 88,206 tons.....	184,313
Lead, 24,199,977 lbs.....	721,384
Nickel, 3,500,000 lbs.....	1,155,000
Silver, 3,205,343 oz.....	2,147,584

Total value.....\$8,039,640

Of the non-metallic product the principal are as follows:

Asbestos.....	Tons	8,429,853
Coal.....	3,743,234	8,006,305
Gypsum.....	205,203	174,403
Mineral Water.....	Gals.	111,730
Natural Gas.....	70,372	276,301
Petroleum.....	Bbls	1,155,640
Salt.....	43,956	169,677

The total value of the non-metallic minerals is \$15,087,665, which, added to the total value of the metallic and adding \$500,000 for mineral products not returned, makes a grand total of a value of \$23,627,305.

In view of the statements as to the decline of the mining industry in Canada, it may be interesting to quote the total values for the last ten years as given. They are as follows:—

1895.....	\$22,000,000
1894.....	20,900,000
1893.....	19,250,000
1892.....	19,500,000
1891.....	20,500,000
1890.....	18,000,000
1889.....	14,500,000
1888.....	13,500,000
1887.....	12,500,000
1886.....	12,000,000

We quote the concluding page of the report in full, as follows:—

"It will be observed that since the calendar year 1886 the total value of the mineral product of Canada has nearly doubled.

The following table shows the principal changes in production and values during the calendar year 1896, as compared with the figures given in the revised summary for 1895:—

Product.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.
Coal, tons.....	229,738	.....	\$278,859	.....
Copper, lbs.....	596,394	.....	71,919	.....
Gold.....	.....	.....	899,306	.....
Iron ore, tons.....	.....	14,591	.....	53,757
Lead, lbs.....	1,124,085	.....	.....	28,582
Natural gas.....	.....	.....	.....	146,781
Nickel, lbs.....	.....	385,525	.....	205,904
Silver, ozs.....	1,429,660	.....	.....	988,596

It will be seen from the above figures that increases are shown in the production of coal, copper, gold, lead and silver, while the output of iron ore, natural gas and nickel has fallen off to a considerable extent. The increase in coal is altogether due to Nova Scotia, which produced 296,153 net tons more than in 1895, but this increased output is offset in a large measure by a decrease of 104,629 tons in the production of British Columbia.

Copper shows a large decrease in Ontario and a small increase in Quebec, while British Columbia's contribution is 3,818,556 lbs., which amount is 1,848,193 lbs. more than in 1895.

In gold, large increases are to be credited to Nova Scotia and Ontario, but British Columbia heads the list with an increase over the previous year of \$497,675.

Owing to the dull state of the iron market during the year, the production of iron ore has fallen off to a considerable

extent in all the provinces, with the exception of Ontario. The exception is directly due to the erection of the blast furnace at Hamilton, Ont., the company obtaining all the Canadian ores smelted from that province. The production of lead is altogether that of British Columbia, and has increased in the year by over 1,000,000 lbs., but a decrease in the market price of some eight per cent lessens the total value by \$28,582.

Natural gas shows a decrease in value of \$146,761, or about 34 per cent, which would seem to be due to a heavy falling off in the production of the Welland gas-field.

Ontario's nickel production is reduced during the year by nearly 400,000 lbs., and shows a decrease in the value of over \$200,000.

British Columbia shows an output of silver amounting to 3,135,343 ozs., valued at \$2,100,689, an increase during the past twelve months of 1,429,660 ozs. in quantity, and in value of nearly a million dollars."

This return, as will be seen by a perusal, is most satisfactory and effectually answers Dr. Selwyn's cry that Canada is not a mining country. When any industry in fact of bad times, the apathy of the people, the suspicion of outside investors, and in most products, with failing prices, can double its value, it is hardly correct to say it is not an industry that is likely to be successful. The increase in the value of gold as compared with last year, \$899,306 is, especially, a fact to be noted and it is very safe to prophesy that, under present circumstances, the gold production of 1897 will leave that of 1896 far behind.

When the total value of the mineral production, \$23,627,305, is divided up among our small population it is no inconsiderable industry, and one that deserves encouragement in every possible way.

KASLO NEWS.

The Noble Five Con., will commence shipping immediately.

The Granite, Little Diamond and Grey Eagle claims will be worked by a company organized by Messrs. Porter Bros., the railway contractors.

The cross-cut on the Elden is in 250 feet.

Shipping will commence from the Mantezuma.

THE CLIFF.

Information has just been received of an important strike in the face of the upper tunnel in the Cliff mine. The lead which this tunnel has been following since the small ore chute was passed open on a new chute a few days ago. At first only a very fine stringer was visible and this gave the employes great hopes that something was not far off. In the last eight feet their hopes have been realized in that 30 inches of the nicest ore yet found on this mine has been exposed. The management has every confidence that from the appearance of this ore body they have struck a large and very rich chute. As the Con. St. Elmo adjoins the Cliff to the west and belongs to Col. Wharton it is the intention to continue the present tunnels through into the adjoining property, which will give a great depth.—Rosslander.

SLOCAN, B. C. NEWS.

Slocan City News: A small force of men have been employed on the Republic group all winter and have struck another very rich vein of ore. The Republic is owned by Dave Sutherland and Tom Montgomery, and is bonded by a Brandon, Man., company.

The Esmeralda reports a very rich strike having been recently made on that property.

Frank Granville has purchased the Townsend claims, adjoining the Two Friends, from A. Baker for \$2,000. Local parties are backing him, and the property will be largely developed.

NOVELTY IMPROVING.

The situation at the Novelty is very interesting at present. The crosscut tunnel has now been driven in ninety-nine feet and the whole face is well mineralized vein matter, from which some high assays have been obtained. It looks now as though a body of pay ore might be opened up at any shot as the improvement since the vein matter was first encountered is very noticeable.

A shaft was started on the vein above the tunnel and this was put down eight feet, when work had to be suspended on account of water from the melting snows. The showing in the bottom is, however, very encouraging, and since work was discontinued at this point night and day shifts have been driving ahead on the tunnel.

Stock in the Novelty has fluctuated much of late. It dropped as low as 6 cents and in fact seemed to be kicked around by the brokers just as they pleased, but a change has occurred and a marked stiffening in the price is noticeable and many of the shrewdest brokers are buying up big blocks in anticipation of a sharp advance.—Rossland Miner.

ROSSLAND NEWS.

Recent assays from the Jumbo are running up in the hundreds of dollars. The ore is quartz, carrying free gold and telluride.

The Cariboo company at Camp McKinney has purchased a four drill compressor plane from the Canadian Rand Drill Company through its local agent, F. R. Mendenhall.

The No. 2 shaft on the Homestake is down 100 feet and when it reaches the 120-foot level crosscuts will be driven both ways to the walls. The main ore body is now on the hanging wall side of the shaft.

The new machinery at the R. E. Lee is nearly ready for operation. The boiler and compressor plant was started Tuesday. The hoist has not yet arrived, but the shaft will be bailed out and work resumed without waiting for it.

SHIPMENTS OF ORE.

From January 1 to February 21 inclusive the shipments of ore from mines at Rossland to smelters were as follows:

Mine.....	Tons.
Le Roi.....	1,945
War Eagle.....	2,060
Columbia & Kootenay.....	355
Iron Mask.....	387
Jumbo.....	91
Josie.....	126
Cliff.....	61
Red Mountain.....	36
O. K.*.....	41

Total.....3,092

*Concentrates.

From January 14 to February 21, inclusive, the ore milled in the camp was as follows:

Mine.....	Tons.
O. K.....	799

Shipments for the past week were: Le Roi, 571; War Eagle, 250; Iron Mask, 65; Columbia & Kootenay, 60; Cliff, 21. Total, 967 tons. During the same period the O. K. milled 150 tons.

FIFTH DIVIDEND OF \$20,000.

The Idaho Mining and Milling Company declared a dividend of \$20,000 on Saturday. This is the fifth dividend paid of a like amount in five months, the sum of \$32,000 having been paid previous to the first regular monthly dividends, making a total of \$132,000. These dividends have been paid over and above a large expenditure for improvements on the mine. The Idaho is one of the best known mines in the Slocan. The principle owners are A. Humphreys, of Duluth; W. H. and W. C. Yaukey, of Detroit, and J. D. Farrell, of Spokane.—Rosslander.

ROSSLAND NOTES.

The shaft on the Superior is down 40 feet, and is showing good lode mineral. A plant will shortly be erected.

The Iron Duke, on Deer Park Mountain is to be worked by a Company.

Assays taken from the drift on the Sunset show \$40 in gold.