

Mining in Kootenay, B.C.

By E. Jacobs.

With only half of the year gone, it is too early to venture an opinion as to what the value of the 1918 mineral production of British Columbia will be. There does not, however, seem to be any good reason to expect as large a total value for this year as there was for 1917; indeed, it will not be surprising to find that there will be a decrease that will show the optimism of some of those who have expected a larger value to have been without foundation.

It is quite likely the production of coal will be appreciably larger, but not of metalliferous minerals, neither placer nor lode. Nor is it to be expected that the total of dividend distributions of metalliferous mining companies will be as large as in 1917, for the amount declared for the first half of 1918 (\$1,345,796) is \$236,479 less than one-half of the total for 1917, which was \$3,164,550.

The chief metalliferous mining districts of the province are those of East and West Kootenay, Boundary, and the Coast. The outlook appears to be that so far as the Kootenay and Boundary districts are concerned, there will be a considerable decrease in the production of metals, except, perhaps that the output of zinc may be larger. If nothing shall happen to interfere with the continuous production of coal from Crowsnest mines, it may be expected that there will be an increase in the value of the year's output of non-metallic minerals that will in part offset the decrease in that of metals, but it is unlikely that it will wholly compensate for the latter.

Data relative to the output of all mines in Boundary and Coast districts is not usually obtainable until after the close of the year, so that any attempt to review conditions in those districts would, in the absence of such information, of necessity, be largely guess-work. It is believed, though, that there has been a falling-off in production in Boundary district; that there may be a similar result disclosed when the output of the metal mines of the lower Coast district shall be known, and that the upper Coast district will probably show an increase, which will be largely the result of the operations of the Granby and Surf Inlet companies. Without authentic data, though, to exhibit the actual position, the reference to the upper Coast mines should be regarded more as a surmise than as a statement founded upon definite knowledge of what the mineral production has been to date, and what it may be expected to be for the remainder of the year.

So much of the ore produced in Kootenay districts goes to Trail for treatment, that a far better idea of the situation can be given, for statements of the quantities received are published regularly, and these supply a basis on which to form an opinion as to whether there has been an increase or a decrease. The following summary review of ore receipts at Trail during five and one-half months of this year may be taken to indicate what the general results for the first half of 1918 have been:

Ore Receipts at Trail.—Ore receipts at Trail were not as large during the second quarter of the year as in the first similar period. As the figures available at the time of writing are only up to June 14, inclusive, complete comparisons are not practicable just now, but the following figures will be near enough to give a generally correct idea of the position in regard to ore production so far as can be shown by a review of

the quantities of ore received at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.'s works at Trail. The monthly totals are as under:

Ore Received in 1918.	Daily Average.	
	Tons.	Tons.
In January	27,404	884
In February	33,989	1,214
In March	41,725	1,346
In April	37,039	1,235
In May	21,162	683
In June (two weeks only) . . .	8,222	587

The chief cause of the decrease was a considerably lessened production from the Consolidated Co.'s own mines. For instance, receipts of ore from mines at Rossland, by far the greater part of which comes from the Centre Star and Le Roi mines, owned by the company, averaged 770 tons a day for March and only 71 tons a day for two weeks of June; then East Kootenay mines, chief among which is the company's Sullivan zinc-lead mine, had an average of 225 tons a day for June against 347 tons for March, while Boundary mines shipping to Trail (the only important producer being the company's Emma mine) averaged but 38 tons a day in June as compared with 111 tons in March.

On the other hand, there was a distinct improvement so far as mines in Ainsworth and Slocan divisions are concerned. The total of Ainsworth mines for the months of February and March was 2,965 tons, while for April and May it was 5,004 tons. Slocan's total for February and March was 2,292 tons, and for April and May 2,884 tons, while for two weeks in June it was 1,368 tons. More ore come from United States mines, too, their February-March total having been 1,513 tons and that for April-May 1,731 tons.

It should be kept in mind that the foregoing figures do not include the whole production of the several districts included. While there may not have been any considerable quantity of ore shipped elsewhere from mines in East and West Kootenay districts, it is well known to those familiar with local conditions that the chief sources of ore-supply for the Boundary district copper smelting works, at Grand Forks and Greenwood respectively, are the mines of the Granby Consolidated Co. and the Canada Copper Corporation, the former having four blast furnaces in operation and the latter one or two.

EAST KOOTENAY.

Only one mine in East Kootenay district other than those owned by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., during the period under notice, made an output of ore worth mentioning, namely, the Paradise, in Windermere division, which shipped to Trail 1,352 tons out of a total from the district of nearly 43,000 tons. Several small mines together shipped 79 tons, but with the exception of that from the Paradise, above mentioned, the whole of the remainder was from mines of the Consolidated Co., in the proportion of about 530 tons from the St. Eugene and 41,000 tons from the Sullivan, the latter quantity being of zinc ore except as to 229 tons which was lead ore. From time to time newspaper reports have been published, making it appear that one or other of several properties in the three mining divisions comprising the East Kootenay district—Fort Steele, Windermere, and Golden divisions—gave much promise of soon becoming ore-producers, but