

the official figures, was 283,307 tons, valued at \$4,621,299; but this showing was exceeded last year by about 50,000 tons.

The most notable silver-lead mines are in the famed Sloean district, from which large shipments of ore have been and are being made, those for 1902 being in excess of the previous year's output. And it is anticipated that with the finding of a market for the zinc ores these will be largely increased during 1903. The general character of the ore is high-grade galena, often carrying 600 ounces of silver to the ton, and averaging 100 ounces and over, and 60 per cent. lead. The Sloean is admitted to be the richest silver-lead mining region in America to-day, and has the advantage of excellent transportation facilities. It has a large number of shipping mines, and several regular dividend-payers. On the east side of the Sloean Lake and River are valuable silver-lead properties and gold-bearing propositions undergoing development. On Kootenay Lake are the well-known Ainsworth group, which are large shippers of ore. The Toad Mountain district around Nelson, and south of it, has a distinct gold, silver and copper belt, the ore being of that character known as bornite. There are a number of rich mining properties in this section. A number of free milling gold claims, equipped with stamp mills, are now being profitably operated near Nelson, amongst them being the Fern, Athabaska, Venus, Granite, etc. Some rich discoveries have been found near Ymir in the Salmon River country, between the Lower Kootenay River and the international boundary. In the north, in the Illecillewaet, Cambourn, Fish Creek and Trout Lake districts are rich properties, which are being worked, and around Lardeau some valuable placer gold mines and extensive deposits of galena are being developed. Between the Gold Range and the Selkirks is the west side of the Big Bend of the Columbia River, that extends north to the 52nd parallel. This bend drains a gold region yet awaiting complete exploration, but which has every indication of great mineral richness. Throughout the whole Kootenay country new discoveries are made every year, so that which is the richest claim of a district during one season may be surpassed by a dozen others in the following year.

YALE DISTRICT.

This district lies to the west of the Kootenays, from which it is separated by the Gold Range, and to the south and east of Lillooet district, and east of Westminster district, extending southwards to the international boundary line. Yale, which has an area of 15,850 square miles, lies entirely within the dry belt of the province, although it has, naturally, from its extent, a variety of soil and climate. Within its limits are great stretches of mining, pastoral, agricultural and forested lands, which afford excellent openings for the miner, rancher, farmer and lumberman, and particularly in the portions now on the eve of development, unequalled chances for investment by capitalists. This development is made possible by the construction of railways by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. in the south-eastern part, which furnish adequate facilities for transport, the lack of which has hitherto hindered that marked progress which its boundless resources render possible. Yale contains the valleys of the Kettle River and Boundary Creek—now spoken of together as the Boundary