

SILVER.**SOURCES OF ITS PRODUCTION AND THE OUTLOOK FOR A FURTHER INCREASE.**

By far the greater part of the net gain of \$325,000 made in silver is credited to East Kootenay, where the St. Eugene mine was a large shipper of lead-silver ore, and the Sullivan group, also in Fort Steele division, joined in the producing mines. Lack of suitable transportation facilities militated against northeast Kootenay doing even as well as it did in 1904, so a small loss has been anticipated in estimating its production. In West Kootenay, Ainsworth division should show a sil-

\$35,000 is estimated to have taken place in the Coast districts.

The outlook for a further total increase in the production of silver in the province is regarded as favourable, even should the present high price not be maintained. The introduction of improved processes at the lead smelters operating in the province may be expected to result in lower smelting costs; the marketing of zinc ores containing silver—a product heretofore practically unsaleable so far as British Columbia ores of this nature are concerned; and the extension of the leasing system, that is finding increased favour, especially in the Slocan, all make for increased produc-



Granby Co's Smelter, at Grand Forks.—Showing circular brick smoke stack, 150 ft. high, erected in 1905.

ver yield approximating \$50,000; Nelson a slight increase to about \$110,000; and Slocan and Slocan City divisions together well on for \$900,000, which would give them a joint gain of nearly \$80,000. For the same reason as that assigned for the expectation of reduced gold returns from Rossland ores, a loss of a few thousand dollars in their total silver contents is estimated. The Lardeau may also be regarded as having produced less silver, the cessation of shipments from the Silver Cup mine during the year having lessened production to a degree that will probably be found to have reduced the local silver yield to the extent of about \$15,000. In Yale district an increase of \$14,000 is looked for, largely from the Boundary, and to a small extent from Kamloops. A decrease of fully

tion. Further, the success met with in operating several of the "dry ore" mines of the Slocan, such ores usually carrying high silver values, will, no doubt, lead to renewed activity in the accessible parts of the "dry ore belt," with a resultant increase in the output of silver.

COPPER.**ITS IMPORTANT POSITION AMONG BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINERAL PRODUCTS.**

Speaking at the annual general meeting of shareholders in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, held in Toronto last January, the general manager of that important institution, in the course of a comprehensive address, commented briefly on the mining industry of