

probably 3,000,000 lb. (returns have not yet been received), and from *Noble Fire* ore 200,000 lb. In estimating an output of 8,500,000, as included in the foregoing table, it is thought a safe margin has been allowed.

The mining and milling of zinc-bearing ores may be expected to assume important proportions in the future, for there are known to occur in the Province large deposits of ore in which zinc is the chief constituent. While little progress in the metallurgy of zinc-ores appears to have yet been made in British Columbia, the great importance to the Kootenay District especially of solving this problem is recognized, and endeavours are being made to overcome the difficulties now in the way of the general utilization at a profit of the zinc-contents of the ores referred to.

Other Metals.

Very little progress appears to have been made toward the establishment of iron-ore-smelting works in British Columbia, nor has there been, so far as advised, development on a large scale of the deposits of iron-ore known to occur in different parts of the Province.

Coal and Coke.

Preliminary returns received show a gross production in 1912 of 3,060,000 long tons of coal, as compared with 2,298,000 tons in 1911, and 3,139,000 tons in 1910. The quantities made into coke in these several years were: In 1912, about 395,000 tons; 1911, 105,000 tons; and 1910, 339,000 tons. The net quantities of coal—that is, the production on record after deduction of the coal made into coke—were: For 1912, 2,665,000 tons; 1911, 2,193,000 tons; and 1910, 2,800,000 tons. In estimating the net production for 1912, an allowance has been made for a possible slight reduction in the total when the final figures are received. The quantities of coke manufactured in the respective years were as follows: In 1912, 264,000 tons; 1911, 66,000 tons; 1910, 218,000 tons. Of course, all these quantities omit odd figures below thousands. The comparison of gross production as between that of the years 1912 and 1910, respectively, is made for the reason that in the latter year the output was the largest in the history of coal-mining in British Columbia. In this connection it is of interest to note that, notwithstanding that labour difficulties so affected the operation of the coal-mines at Extension and Cumberland, Vancouver Island, during the last quarter of the year as to cause a decreased production from them in 1912 of 107,000 tons as compared with 1911, the net decrease in production of the whole of the Province was but 73,000 tons, so that had it not been for the temporary unfavourable conditions at the mines just mentioned, there is little doubt that the year 1912 would have been a record year in the production of coal.

Reviewing the production in 1912 of the separate districts, it is seen that Vancouver Island mines together made an output of about 1,553,000 tons; those of Nicola and Similkameen, 214,000 tons; and of Crowsnest, 1,299,000 tons. The whole of the 395,000 tons made into coke was from Crowsnest mines, so that the net production of coal in that district was about 904,000 tons.

Taking the figures of value as they now appear in the table of estimated production, it will be seen that the value of coal and coke is less than \$10,000 short of being one-third of that of the whole of the mineral production of the Province for last year. Further, a comparison covering the last five-year period, 1908-1912, shows that the proportion of value of coal and coke was 35 per cent. of that of all the mineral production of British Columbia in that period. During the previous similar period, 1903-1907, the proportion was rather less than 26 per cent. These figures indicate the increasing importance of coal-mining as compared with other branches of the mining industry of the Province.