

ing prosecuted on the Blairmore coal fields in the same area. Much attention has meanwhile been directed to occurrences of coal in the Similkameen and Nicola Districts, and in some localities coal seams of very good quality have been opened up.

In brief, the condition of the mining industry at the close of 1902 is better than it was at the close of 1901, and we can wish our readers a happy and prosperous New Year with every hope and assurance of its fulfillment. The low-grade mines of the Boundary have shown, thanks to the skilled and able engineers and metallurgists of the district, what they are capable of



Cyanide Building at the Ymir Mine.

doing even with the price of copper lower than it is likely to be again for some time to come. The Rossland mines are now on a business basis. The demand for zinc, and the likelihood of the accordance of Government aid of some form to the lead miner, is removing the depression which has overshadowed the industry in the Slocan and East Kootenay. The rich mines of Camp Hedley in the Similkameen are about to become productive, and railway advantages can not much longer be denied to the Nicola and Similkameen. Production from the Lardeau and Trout Lake districts is increasing and a number of new properties are undergoing development. An important smelting industry has been established on Vancouver Island and practically, for the first time, mining has been conducted on systematic and scientific lines. The outlook in Atlin and Cariboo has improved and great developments in coal mining are promised. Looking at the other side of the picture it is regrettable to note that the aggregate amount paid this year in dividends has been disappointingly small, and that prospecting has been less in evidence. The low price of metals partly explains the one; further, in many cases profits have been re-invested in improvements. As regards the other, the first excitement when the speculation fever was at its height, and any

piece of ground with four stakes stuck on it, and a fir tree, was saleable, has passed. Not only that, but a re-action has set in, and it is difficult at the present to dispose of even a promising claim or prospect. Prospecting is in itself a speculation, and speculation is not now the fashion. British Columbia, as we have so repeatedly mentioned, has suffered much in the past at the hands of the "wild-catter." She has now reached the convalescent stage, but until our mines commence and maintain the regular distribution of dividends, complete confidence will not be restored, and no considerable investment of capital can be expected.

Official returns for the year are not yet available, but several estimates of production, some widely over and some, we should judge, below the actual figures, have been published in the local press. There can be no doubt, however, that, in point of tonnage output an increase has been made this year of between 15 and 20 per cent. while in values a decrease will be shown to have taken place of perhaps 5 to 10 per cent., basing calculations on New York metal market quotations. In the following tables an attempt to roughly approximate the year's mineral production is made:

| | Value. |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Gold (placer) | \$1,000,000 |
| Gold (lode) | 5,000,000 |
| Silver | 2,000,000 |
| Lead | 500,000 |
| Copper | 4,000,000 |
| Coal and coke | 6,000,000 |
| Other materials | 500,000 |
| Total | \$19,000,000 |



Quarrying at the Snowshoe Mine, Boundary District. The Explosion of a Blast.

TONNAGE, METALLIFEROUS MINES.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Grand Forks, Kettle River and Oscyoos Division | 520,000 |
| Rossland | 340,000 |
| Nelson | 75,000 |
| Slocan and Ainsworth | 29,000 |
| Coast | 25,000 |
| East Kootenay | 10,000 |
| Other districts | 25,000 |
| Total tons | 1,014,000 |