

district, \$541,000 of the total increase of \$645,000 being East Kootenay's share. But, while crediting East Kootenay fairly with its part of the large total, one must not forget that the low percentage of silver in the lead is also due to this district. In 1899, taking the production of the whole Province of British Columbia, there was 1 oz. of silver to every 7½ pounds of lead; in 1900 there was 1 oz. of silver to every 16 lbs. of lead; but in the district of East Kootenay there was only 1 oz. of silver to every 40 pounds of lead, or, putting it in smelter's language, in 1899 there were about 2½ oz. of silver to the unit of lead, in 1900 1¼ ozs. to the unit of lead, and for the East Kootenay district only ½ oz. to the unit of lead.

The general result obtained from a study of these figures and of this report is one distinctly favourable to British Columbia. It proves that the mineral industry is progressing in a manner which, if not specially noteworthy, is nevertheless satisfactory, and it renders incomprehensible the pessimistic reports which have emanated from the Province during July and August. A review of a government report is not the proper place in which to discuss these reports or the remedies suggested, but we have alluded to them elsewhere.

The prohibition of the entrance of silver-lead ores into the United States, which happened at the beginning of the year and was solely caused by the monopoly called "The American Smelting & Refining Company," has created a tremendous depression in silver-lead circles and properties, which is not likely to be removed this year. Notwithstanding, there is every probability of a larger increase of gold production and a substantial increase in copper for 1901.

Notable developments are also making in the coal and iron interests of the province. The discovery and exploitation of deposits of high grade hematite along the line of the Crow's Nest Railway will soon lead to a larger consumption of both coal and coke. In short, the only danger that threatens the steady advance in mining in British Columbia are of man's invention and not of nature's placing.

### Mining Legislation in B.C.

The following measures affecting mining were passed by the Legislative Assembly for the Province of British Columbia during the session 1901:—

#### INSPECTION OF THE METALLIFEROUS MINES.

Bill No. 28, an Act to amend the 'Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act,' and amending Act provides for the appointment of an inspector or inspectors of metalliferous mines, who shall have had at least seven years practical experience. The provincial mineralogist shall have the powers and may exercise the functions conferred on an inspector of metalliferous mines by the Act.

The Act further provides that accidents must be reported forthwith to the Minister of Mines and to the inspector of the district in which the mines is situated. A monthly return is required to be made to the Department of Mines, setting forth the name of the mine, its extent, the name of the company or person operating it, the quantity of ore treated and any other particulars deemed necessary by the Minister of Mines. The Mine Recorder is to be notified of the shipping or the treating of ore from or at any mine.

The Act includes a new code of mine signals, to be known as the British Columbia Code of Mine Signals.

It is further provided that from and after the 1st of January, 1902, no person shall be allowed to operate for more than 8 hours in every 24 hours any first-motion or direct acting hoisting engine, any geared or indirect-acting hoisting engine at any mine employing 15 or more men underground, where the duties of a fireman are performed by the engineer in charge; nor shall any stationary engineer be allowed to

operate a stationary engine developing fifty or more horse power where such engineer has charge or control of a boiler or boilers in addition to other duties performed by him. This Act shall not, however, apply to such steam plants as are in continuous operation or as are operated 20 or more hours in the 24 hours.

#### INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS

Bill No. 31, an Act respecting the 'Inspection of Steam Boilers and Engines and the Examination and Licensing of Engineers in charge of Steam Boilers and Engines,' includes within its scope all steam boilers operated in the Province of British Columbia, excepting railway locomotives on railways under the supervision of the Dominion of Canada; boilers subject to inspection under the Dominion Steamboat Inspection Act and boilers with a capacity of two-horse power or under.

It is provided that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may constitute the Province of British Columbia into a Steam Boiler Inspection District or as many districts as he may deem proper. The Act provides for the appointment and qualifications of inspectors, who shall form part of a board to be called the Board of Steam Boiler Inspection, for the inspection of boilers, for the imposition of penalties for constructing or operating defective boilers, for the providing of steam gauges, water gauges, try-cocks, blow-off connection, feed water arrangement, brick flues, fusible plugs and other parts of the equipment, and for the qualification and classification of engineers.

Provision is made that the owner of every boiler within the scope of the Act shall pay yearly fees amounting to not more than \$5; these fees to form part of the consolidated revenue of the province.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make rules and regulations for the inspection of steam boilers and for the examination of persons in charge of same. All rules and regulations made under the authority of this section shall, after publication in the *British Columbia Gazette*, have the same force as if incorporated in the Act. (a)

#### REGULATION OF COAL MINES.

Bill No. 47, an Act to amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act,' provides for the addition to that Act of a chapter dealing with the examination of coal miners, fire bosses, overmen and shot lighters. It is provided that no person shall be employed as a coal miner, fire boss, overman or shot lighter in any coal mine who is not in possession of a certificate of competency as such in the form set forth in the Act. Certificates of competency are to be granted by a board of five examiners, to be constituted at each mine. Such boards shall consist of the following persons: (a) One appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council; (b) two to be appointed by the owners or managers of the mine; and (c) two coal miners actually working in the mine and who shall have at least three years' experience as working miners, and after the going into force of this Act, possessed of the certificate of competency as such. Such coal miners shall be elected by the coal miners actually working in a mine. It is provided that the two coal miners who act on the board of examiners for the first year after the coming into force of the Act shall not be required to hold a certificate of competency.

The members of the board are to hold office for one year or until its successors are appointed.

No certificate of competency shall be granted to any coal miner, fire boss, overman or shot lighter who does not satisfy the majority of the board of examiners that he is sufficiently conversant with the English language and with the provisions of the Acts relating to coal mines and rules and regulations made thereunder as to render his employment as such safe. In order to qualify for a certificate a coal miner must have been employed in a coal mine for at least 12 months previous to the date of his application for the certificate; he must have a sufficient knowledge of the methods of coal mining to render him competent to perform the duties appertaining to his employment; and if he is a shot lighter, fire boss or overman in addition to the foregoing,