

PREFACE.

ONE hundred and seventy-two million, two hundred and forty-one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-eight dollars, represent the value of the mineral production of British Columbia down to the end of the year 1901, and the output for that year was the largest in the history of the Province, amounting to \$20,086,780. The mineral production of the Yukon Territory for the same year is given at \$18,000,000.* Of the grand total first above mentioned, gold, lode and placer, takes first place at \$80,716,006; coal and coke second at \$54,157,315; and silver third at \$16,534,554.

Gold, so far as officially known, was first discovered within what is now British Columbia, by the Indians in Queen Charlotte's Island, in 1850, and the fact was reported to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by Governor Blanshard (of Vancouver Island) in his despatch† of August 18th of that year. The results of expeditions fitted out by the Hudson's Bay Company, and later by others, to work the vein so discovered on Mitchell Harbour, are given in the succeeding despatches in the same blue book.

Mr. Matthew MacFie, F.R.G.S., writing in 1865, states that‡ "the existence of gold in Vancouver Island has been known since 1850," and Mr. J. D. Pemberton, Surveyor-General of Vancouver Island, says§ that, "In 1852 I broke off almost at random pieces of gold-bearing rock in various places within a walk of Victoria, and the report (at p. 160) on them by Mr. James Tennant, of the Strand, will be read with interest, enumerating as it does the geological formations usually met with in the south-eastern portion of the Island, and showing that

* Report of the B. C. Minister of Mines for 1901, pp. 919-931.

† "Correspondence relative to the Discovery of Gold in Queen Charlotte's Island"—Return to House of Commons, 19th July, 1853.

‡ "Vancouver Island and British Columbia." London, 1865, p. 151.

§ "Facts and Figures relating to Vancouver Island and British Columbia." London, 1860, p. 42.