

Imports of Mining Machinery during 1903.

The imports of free and dutiable mining and smelting machinery for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1903, are as follows:—

MONTHS	1903.			1902.		
	Free	Dutiable	Total	Free	Dutiable	Total
January.....	\$ 77,298	\$ 7,676	\$ 84,974	\$ 92,984	\$ 2,549	\$ 95,533
February.....	30,106	1,587	31,693	43,123	2,380	45,503
March.....	83,535	11,534	95,069	55,255	2,629	57,884
April.....	104,967	4,638	109,605	61,227	5,087	66,314
May.....	155,493	1,469	156,962	90,820	4,782	95,602
June.....	155,387	6,707	162,094	77,270	5,293	82,563
July.....	128,730	4,737	133,467	47,511	2,171	49,682
August.....	105,838	4,083	109,921	90,798	1,139	91,937
September.....	89,473	6,522	95,995	82,090	8,906	90,996
October.....	110,570	1,812	112,382	57,011	4,385	61,396
November.....	106,897	9,927	116,824	56,692	9,395	65,687
December.....	60,489	11,710	72,199	45,359	1,883	47,242
Total.....	1,208,783	72,402	1,281,185	799,740	51,599	851,339

The principal sources from which this machinery has been imported during 1903:—

MONTHS.	UNITED STATES		GREAT BRITAIN		Other Countries	Total
	Free	Dutiable	Free	Dutiable		
January...	\$ 75,235	\$ 7,676	\$ 417	—	\$ 1,646	\$ 84,974
February...	29,467	1,587	639	—	Nil	31,693
March...	82,680	11,534	158	—	697	95,069
April.....	104,902	4,638	65	—	Nil	109,605
May...	155,127	1,293	366	206	"	156,992
June....	152,517	6,579	2,034	128	836	161,084
July...	105,899	—	13,756	4,737	9,075	133,467
August...	100,942	3,119	4,756	964	140	109,921
September...	82,941	6,086	5,640	416	882	95,965
October.....	90,790	1,641	19,761	171	19	112,382
November.....	104,702	9,498	2,195	429	Nil	116,824
December.....	55,902	11,710	4,587	—	"	72,199
Total.....	1,141,104	65,361	54,374	7,051	13,295	1,281,185

Mr. Harry E. Macdonnell, general freight agent of the Kootenay lines for the C.P.R. made an important announcement recently which has been anxiously waited for by the mine owners of the Slocan for some time past. Mr. Macdonnell stated that the C.P.R. has decided to declare a rate of \$13 per ton on zinc ores and zinc concentrates from the Slocan district to Antwerp. This rate covers shipments in bulk, and this will obviate the necessity for sacking concentrates at the shipping points. The rate hitherto in effect was considerably higher and the reduction will allow some ores which could not hitherto be sent to be now shipped at a profit.

The largest mass of virgin copper ever discovered was found in the old Minnesota mine, in Michigan, in 1856. It weighed 525 tons and required twenty miners a year and a half, working with long-handled chisels, to cut the huge mass into chunks small enough to be hoisted.

Imports of Wire Rope during 1903.

The following table shows the imports of wire rope and cables for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

MONTH.	From Great Britain		From U. S.		Total.	
	Pounds.	Value	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January.....	115,646	\$ 8,363	16,909	\$ 2,210	132,555	\$ 10,573
February...	152,813	9,501	30,172	2,683	182,985	12,187
March...	151,408	9,038	46,602	2,607	198,010	11,645
April.....	148,276	6,663	20,199	2,640	168,475	11,303
May.....	132,564	9,174	59,994	5,395	192,558	14,569
June.....	320,882	20,047	49,312	4,028	370,194	24,075
July.....	192,756	12,176	68,857	6,861	261,613	19,037
August.....	104,215	6,145	38,634	2,997	143,949	9,142
September.....	142,671	9,927	52,773	6,806	195,444	16,733
October.....	184,728	14,310	167,993	13,636	352,721	27,946
November.....	66,439	3,802	70,624	5,275	137,063	9,077
December.....	133,598	7,986	75,304	5,538	208,902	13,534
Imports from other countries					92,658	6,103
Total.....	1,847,096	\$119,135	697,373	\$60,676	2,637,127	\$185,919

COMPANY NOTES.

The Tyee Copper Co.—The increasing output of the Tyee mine has rendered it necessary for the Company to enlarge the tram-line. In order to do this operations were suspended for a short time during the present month. The work was completed by the 16th inst., and the company now expect to ship 200 tons per day from the mine to E. & N. Railway, thence to be carried to the company's smelter at Ladysmith. Work at the mine itself progresses steadily, with increasingly satisfactory results, the property looking better than ever as development proceeds. The company's smelter at Ladysmith is in very satisfactory shape, ore coming in regularly in large quantities. A contract has been made, we are informed, with Mr. Vaughn-Rhys, the present lessee of the Van Anda mine, to ship the output of that property to Ladysmith. The contract will run for two years, and calls for some 15,000 tons of ore per annum. During the month of November the smelter ran for 29 days. A total of 6,340 tons of ore was smelted, giving a return of \$65.735, after deduction of refining charges and amount paid for customs ores.

The Yreka Mine.—Among the satisfactory evidences of the progress the mining industry is making on the West Coast of Vancouver Island none is more gratifying than the announcement that the Yreka mine is again in a shipping condition. Operations at this property were seriously hindered during the past season by the scarcity of water. In addition to this, a large amount of work was necessary to place the mine in running order. This has now been accomplished to such an extent that shipping operations have been resumed, and a large additional force of men have been sent up to handle the increased output. At the commencement of the present month over five hundred tons of ore were on the dump ready for shipment. Mr. Nicholas Tregear, who has borne so conspicuous a part in the recent successful developments at the Lenora mine Mt. Sicker, went up to the Yreka in the latter part of November on behalf of his employers, the Northwestern Smelting and Refining Co., of Crofton, B.C., who are in control of the Yreka mine under a large contract, and who are making a great success on Quatsino Sound as they have done at Mt. Sicker. Mr. Tregear, on his return, expressed himself as extremely well satisfied with the work done and with the appearance and prospects of the property. The shipments now commenced will continue steadily for the future.

The Blue Bird.—This mine in the Slocan District, near Sandon, B.C. has just shipped a car and when the gasoline engine is ready for hoisting another car will be hoisted and steady shipments from that on will be in order. The property is looking very well and the grade of ore is rich. They have a nice sample of ore ready for shipment at the C. P. R. Depot to the St. Louis exhibition weighing 520 lbs. and assaying 150 ounces in silver and 60 per cent. lead.

The Lucky Jim Group, Slocan District.—Mr. Hughes has taken a bond on the Lucky Jim group at Bear lake and has started a small crew at work. This property has not been worked for a number of years. The last time it