

standing up for what he believes to be his duty, are not only ill-timed, but unseemly. We trust to hear that his resignation is not accepted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The total value of the mineral production of British Columbia last year was \$17,495,954, or an increase over the preceding year of only \$9,404. This bald statement is somewhat disappointing, but there are facts of an explanatory nature to be taken into consideration. Chief among these, perhaps, is that so many of the companies have been or are engaged in installing machinery and other improvements, which have delayed the work of production, but which, when fully in operation, will place it on a much more economical footing, and more than make up for present losses. Strikes were accountable, too, in the earlier portion of the year for a considerable diminution. The whole business of mining, however, in the Province of British Columbia seems to be getting based upon a more secure foundation, and this is gradually leading to an elimination of enterprises not founded upon substantial merit, such as, in the past, have cast doubt upon even legitimate undertakings. The following table will show in brief form the production for the years 1902-1903:

	1902.		1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold, placer, oz..	53,657	\$1,073,140	53,021	\$1,060,420
Gold, lode, oz. ..	236,491	4,888,269	232,831	4,812,616
Silver, oz.	3,917,917	1,941,328	2,996,204	1,521,472
Copper, lbs.	29,636,057	3,446,673	34,359,921	4,547,535
Lead, lbs.	22,536,381	824,832	18,089,283	689,744
Coal (long tons)	1,397,394	4,192,182	1,168,194	3,504,582
Coke (long tons)	128,015	640,075	165,543	827,715
Other materials	480,051	531,870
		\$17,486,550		\$17,495,954

In coal, the Crow's Nest mines showed a substantial increase last year, but the Coast collieries showed a decrease, which was more than equivalent. The output in both districts was interfered with by labor troubles, while in the latter there was a change in ownership and a subsequent important alteration in plans. Placer gold mining did not show any great change, taking the Province as a whole. In the northern sections there was an increase, but in the central a decrease. The Cariboo and Lower Fraser River valley experienced adverse weather conditions. In lode mine ore there was an increase over 1902 of 287,000 tons, or 27 per cent. This increase was shared in by the Rossland, Boundary and Coast districts. On many properties improved methods have rendered low-grade ores workable.

In Rossland section the ore mined amounted to 360,786 tons, or an increase of more than nine per cent., but the metallic contents showed scarcely an equivalent increase, the average grade of ore mined being lower than before. This seems to be the experience of most of the chief mining districts in the world—the transition from the occurrence of high-grade bonanza ore bodies, capable of profit under expensive methods of smelting, to masses of lower grade requiring milling treatment.

Of the total output of silver, amounting to 2,996,204 ounces, valued at \$1,521,472, nearly three-fourths was found associated with lead, which makes the treatment, the production and value received for the latter an important problem in British Columbia

mining economics. For the past two years this industry has been at a low ebb, and recently the Dominion Government passed an Act providing for the payment of lead bounties, which has given a decided impulse to the Kootenay District, where the silver-lead mines largely lie. The copper production of the Province last year showed up very well, being larger than ever before, but the ores could not be profitably worked, as a rule, were it not for their values in gold and silver. As to other minerals, while their existence in the Province is a fact, such as iron, zinc, platinum, etc., their output was too small to be of much account. Oil-bearing shales, too, have been discovered in the Cariboo district.

THE LUMBER TRADE.

While there has been no general cut in the prices of lumber, yet several lines are being sold at prices distinctly lower than those held early this spring. And where prices keep stiff it is quite frequently the case that little business is being done at those figures. There is a distinctly easier market, though to what it is directly due would be difficult to say. Primarily, of course, it is a consequence of the partial cessation of the demand for building, and some attribute this, not so much to the high cost of materials, but to the reaction, which has not even yet spent itself, from the stock speculation of a year or so ago. There can be little doubt but that a considerable amount of money with which it was the original intention to build residences, enlarge premises, etc., in Toronto and other Canadian cities was swallowed up in the "boom" at that time, and now a waiting, retrenching period is in order. Apart from the above, the trade may be said to be in a satisfactory condition, but without any very notable feature to report. The following is a summary of the conditions in Great Britain, from Farnworth & Jardine's (Liverpool) circular:

The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 13,849 tons register, against 7,415 tons register during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1902, 1903, and 1904 has been 137,121, 126,475, and 131,783 tons respectively. The business during the past month has been inactive, and buyers are disposed to act with caution; the arrivals have not been excessive, but the demand generally is very quiet, and stocks are ample; the deliveries have been fair, but have been assisted by unreserved auction sales of various stocks; values generally are weaker. With regard to Canadian woods: of waney the arrivals have been moderate, the deliveries fair, but the demand is quiet, and stocks are sufficient; values are firm; second class is only in limited request. The arrivals of square pine have been small, but there is no improvement in the demand, and stocks are ample; values are steady. The stock of red pine, though small, appears sufficient for present requirements. There has been no import of oak logs; the demand has been exceedingly quiet, deliveries disappointing, and the stock is heavy; there is little change in value to report. First class rock elm is in demand, the stock much reduced, and there is a fair opening for early arrivals, values are very high; the arrivals consist chiefly of round logs, which have been more in demand. The demand for ash is very limited. The first direct shipments of pine deals are now coming forward, largely on merchants' account; the deliveries have been fair, but the stock is large; sales are difficult. Red pine deals are dull of sale; prices are easier. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce and pine deals—The arrivals during the past month have been considerably in excess of the corresponding month last year, viz.: 4,840