

BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE MINERAL PROVINCE OF CANADA.

Gold, Silver, Lead, Copper, Coal, Coke, Oil, Iron, Mercury, Platinum, Etc.

THE MINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA HAVE PRODUCED NEARLY

\$180,000,000.

AMOUNT AND VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTS FOR 1900, 1901, 1902 AND 1903.

	Customary Measure.	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903 Estimated Value.
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
Gold, placer.....	Ounces	63,936	\$1,278,724	48,505	\$970,100	53,657	\$1,073,140	\$1,900,000
Gold, lode.....	"	167,153	3,453,381	210,384	4,348,643	236,491	4,888,269	6,000,000
Silver.....	"	3,958,175	2,309,240	5,151,333	2,884,745	3,917,917	1,941,328	1,500,000
Copper.....	Pounds	9,997,080	1,615,289	27,603,746	4,446,963	29,636,057	3,446,673	4,500,000
Lead.....	"	63,358,621	2,691,887	51,582,906	2,002,733	22,536,381	424,832	500,000
Coal.....	Tons, 2,240 lbs.	1,439,595	4,318,785	1,460,331	4,380,993	1,397,394	4,192,182	5,250,000
Coke.....	"	85,149	425,745	127,081	635,415	128,015	640,075	
Other materials	"		251,740		417,238		480,051	500,000
			\$16,344,751		\$20,086,780		\$17,486,550	\$19,200,000

GOLD.—Placer gold mining, which in early days formed the chief mineral industry of the province, and made it famous all the world over, still continues to be important, while improved methods of working the gravel deposits, together with cheaper transportation and cost of mining, have rendered the working of large deposits, long known to exist, now profitable where previously impossible.

The area of country known to contain placer gold is enormous and has only been touched, leaving still virgin ground well worth the prospecting for this, the only class of "poor man's mine."

Recent discoveries of new placer fields in the Atlin district, the Cassiar district, and the large extent of unworked deposits in the Cariboo district, are proof that the field is not yet exhausted, and promise a revival of this important industry.

HYDRAULIC MINING plants costing larger amounts of money are being installed in Atlin, Cassiar, Omineca and Cariboo, at points widely separated, indicating the extent of the gold deposits. One company recovered \$390,000 in gold in 1900.

DREDGING FOR GOLD is receiving deserved attention, and dredges are at work on the Fraser, Thompson, Quesnel and other rivers, on all of which streams good ground may yet be obtained.

LODE GOLD MINING is now being prosecuted in various parts of the province, and in certain instances very successfully, notably at Ymir, Camp McKinney and elsewhere.

GOLD-COPPER ORES are being extensively worked at Rossland by the Le Roi, War Eagle and associated companies, while other mines in the camp are rapidly becoming important producers.

The tonnage of this camp alone in 1902 was 329,534 tons, and there will be an increase this year.

SILVER-LOAD.—In 1900 the silver production was \$2,309,200 and the lead production \$2,691,887. Since that time the mining of silver-lead ores has been somewhat suspended owing to temporarily unfavorable market prices.

COPPER.—Copper is being produced to some extent at Rossland, where the chief value of the ore is in gold, but the feature of this branch of the industry is the development and mining of a large tonnage of low-grade copper ore in the Boundary district, of which there seems to be an almost unlimited amount. The output of ore from this district alone amounted to over 684,000 tons in 1903.

The Coast district will this coming year show a very considerable copper production from the Vancouver Island and Texada Island mines.

Prospecting for copper is receiving great attention, and the discoveries made on the Coast, in the Similkameen Valley, etc., give great promise.

IRON.—With the great probability of an iron-smelting plant on the Northern Pacific Coast in the near future, what promise to be extensive bodies of magnetite iron ore have been developed on the Coast, while other deposits of iron ore are now under development in the Goat River and Fort Steele mining divisions, and still other bodies occur near Kamloops.

COAL AND COKE.—In 1901 the Vancouver Island collieries made a net output of 1,173,893 tons of coal and 20,178 tons of coke.

In 1903 the Crow's Nest collieries made a net output of 650,000 tons of coal, and 106,000 tons of coke. In 1904 this output will be doubled at the least. These mines alone are putting out from 1,000 to 2,000 tons of coal per diem.

Of the total output of 1902, 776,808 tons of coal, and 38,780 tons of coke were exported, chiefly to the United States. The remainder was consumed in the local smelters and other industries.

SMLTERS.—In the province there are smelters in active operation at Trail, Nelson, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Boundary Falls, Van Anda, Ladysmith and Crofton; while this coming year will probably see one erected in East Kootenay.

CAPITAL.—Capital can now find here many excellent opportunities for investment, as the values placed on mines and undeveloped properties have reached a reasonable basis. If proper business care is used, and the experience of competent men utilized, these investments should be safe as well as profitable.

MINERAL LANDS.—Mineral lands are open to location to any person over 18 years of age, who has obtained a free miner's certificate, and the perfect title to lode claims can be easily secured after \$500 worth of work has been done per claim. A great extent of territory has yet to be prospected.

For information, reports, bulletins, etc., address

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