

the urgency for the construction of another Dry Dock is amply demonstrated. Had the present Dock been occupied at the time of the accident to H.M.S. "Amphion," the ship would undoubtedly have been lost, and the same misfortune must have befallen any other vessel requiring the use of the Dock in cases of emergency during the 7 months occupation by the "Amphion." The S. S. "Costa Rica" occupied the Dock fifty-three days whilst undergoing repairs.

The total number of vessels docked during the year ending June 30th, was 28, with an aggregate tonnage of 39,385 tons; the Dock being occupied 194 days in all.

A desirable site for another Dry Dock, is on the Government property, alongside the present dock, which, apart from other reasons, is suggested upon economical considerations, such as the utilization of the present machinery, plant and staff, the which, with slight additions, would meet the requirements of both Docks.

The suggested new Dock should be 650 feet long, as advocated in the Board's last Annual Report, with a width of 85 feet at the entrance, and with a depth of water 36 to 40 feet. This would accommodate the largest ships in the British navy.

#### Mines and Minerals.

Notwithstanding labor difficulties which closed one of our collieries for some months, the output of coal exported for the Province during the period under review, has aggregated 644,991 tons. In addition to the coal mines worked at Nanaimo and Departure Bay, it is well known that valuable coal deposits exist in large quantities at other points, on and adjacent to Vancouver Island, and it is to be hoped, that these will receive the attention of capitalists with a view to active development.

Quicksilver in large quantities and easy of access has been found near Alberni, and promises to become an important factor in our mining statistics. The iron found in the vicinity of the quicksilver mines proves to be the best yet discovered on the Island.

The exports of gold show a falling off, in consequence of placer mining diminishing.