

In 1895 was 49 bushels per acre, and the lowest of twelve varieties about 48 bushels per acre. Oats ranged from 58 bushels up to 101 bushels per acre for twelve varieties, in 1895. Though the highest yield of oats was not materially greater than in 1896, the average of the twelve varieties was considerably higher. In 1895 six-rowed barley ranged from 61 to 69 bushels per acre and two-rowed from 57 to 62½ bushels per acre.

It is in the unfavorable years that good farming counts. The most unfavorable years which we have had in Manitoba for the past ten or fifteen years have always given what would be considered large crops in some countries, when farming was done at all carefully. We have had years when the crops were considered light, but a crop failure we have never had, and even in the most unfavorable years careful farmers have secured profitable crops.

## British Columbia Mining.

It is impossible in this number to do justice to the great mining interests, which have made such rapid progress in different portions of British Columbia during the past few years, and most of our readers have read much from our regular columns in the past on this subject. A special report upon this industry we must leave to a future issue, and at a time of the year when personal inspection of mining affairs can be made with less trouble, than it would entail during one of the most severe winters yet experienced through the mountain country of the Pacific province. We dislike publishing statements not based upon personal knowledge of our own trusted representatives, and such cannot be procured at present. In the near future we expect to furnish our readers with the results of an investigation, in which not only the wondrous development of mining will be dealt with, but in which also we may take some pains to sift the dross from the pure metal, and guide and guard intending investors among our readers.

In this number we furnish a number of illustrations of the progress made in the West Kootenay mining region, and those of our readers who may have a copy of the illustrated number we published regarding that country in 1892, will see at a glance by a comparison of illustrations the wondrous growth of the mining industry there. At that time such towns as Rossland, Trail Creek, Sandon, New Denver and others were not in existence, but in this number we can furnish illustrations of all mentioned. These illustrations speak loudly of the progress. Further details we must leave to some future issue.

There is now no further doubt but that West Kootenay will prove one of the greatest gold producing regions of the world. That it contains untold wealth of gold is proven by the few mines in which production has been reached. When the stock of a gold mine rises in three years or so from five cents to about ten dollars a share, there must be great wealth in the region.

The fact of West Kootenay being a great silver-producing country was settled several years ago, and the estimate of its wealth is yearly advancing, while the difficulties of developing its buried treasures are fast disappearing. Five years ago the general impression was that an outlay of hundreds of thousands of dollars was necessary to develop a silver mine there to a paying point. Now, with increased smelter facilities and cheapened and improved transportation the expense of such an undertaking has been greatly reduced. In fact some of what are called shipping mines, where a quantity of ore rich enough to be shipped to a distant smelter with profit is available, are being successfully operated upon a few thousand dollars of outlay, and such mines are likely to become quite numerous during the next year or so. One of our illustrations gives views of a mine of this class, namely,

### THE IBEX OF SLOCAN.

This mine is located about twenty miles from the town of Kaslo, and is only four miles from the railway station of White-water on the line of road which connects the shores of the Kootenay and Slocan Lakes. The company owning this mine have made some shipments and received smelter returns from the same, showing \$31.51 per ton of silver from the ore shipped and realizing to the company after paying all expenses, including the heavy duty on the ore going into the United States, fully \$10 a ton. With a smelter running at a Kootenay Lake point, the company could depend upon a profit of \$50 a ton or more on every ton of ore they now have in sight. At present the company have opened up for over 100 feet along their principal vein of galena ore, and have at present over 14,000 tons of ore in sight. If this ore should all prove as rich as the shipments already made, the company should pay handsome dividends upon their capital stock of \$300,000.

We instance the Ibez of Slocan mine because we have personal acquaintance with the parties engaged in its development, and believe the facts placed before us to be true. But this is not the only rich mine of its class in the Slocan or other districts of West Kootenay. There are numbers as rich and some much richer, and the next year will we believe astonish the mining world with facts and figures about both gold and silver production in this wonderful West Kootenay region.

## British Columbia Fisheries

The year 1893 has quite unexpectedly proved a record year for the B. C. fisheries. It was in the ordinary course of things expected to prove an off year for the salmon run, but proved on the contrary, the season of the largest annual take on record in the Province's history. No less than 591,409 cases of salmon were put up by 45 canneries; of these 310,333 cases were packed on the Fraser river, 100,115 cases on the Skeena river; 107,487 cases on River's Inlet; 14,010 on the Naas river, and 22,700 cases at various other northern points. This output represents a value in round

figures of \$3,000,000 to which total a value of at least \$500,000 must be added for the output of fresh and salted salmon, either used at home or in other parts of Canada. The canners generally ascribe the unexpected run of the year in part to the Fraser River hatchery and plead urgently for the establishment of at least two other hatcheries, one to supply the needs of northern waters. These demands will probably be met by the Dominion Government, which has hitherto made a clear profit of nearly two-thirds of the receipts by it from this Province, in respect of fishing licenses and other dues, and have spent less than \$10,000 a year on fishery supervision and development in British Columbia. The Hon. Mr. Davies has, however, as Minister of Marine and Fisheries expressed himself in favor of the adoption of a more liberal policy in respect of British Columbia fishery aid, hence those interested in the industry are hopeful of still further developments from it. At least ten new canneries will begin operations this season, making 55 in all, and there is no reason to anticipate any falling off from even the record yield of 1890, the nearest approach to which, it may here be mentioned, that of the season of 1893, when 500,220 cases were put up. It is interesting to note as regards the destination of most of the British Columbia salmon pack that considerably more than five-sixths of it go direct to England, for which a fleet of ten vessels carried during that 1890, five hundred and thirty-one thousand one hundred and sixteen cases. The home consumption of British Columbia canned salmon is, therefore, throughout Canada small by comparison with the foreign demand which is steady to be still steadily increasing.

It is satisfactory to note in connection with this branch of British Columbian industry that not only is the output large in amount and value, but so too are the profits which as a rule yield very considerably more than the average return on mercantile capital investments on this Continent. The halibut fishery is another growing industry of the Province and immense takes of fish, often weighing from 150 to 200 pounds each, are now being made in the northern coast waters. One steamer recently brought thence to Vancouver no less than sixty-six tons of this fish, representing some three days' fishing off the halibut banks.

The bulk of the fish caught go to the United States, much of it to points in New England and the industry is in fact controlled by American capital which, however, profitably employs an increasing number of British Columbian fishermen and other workers. A Norse colony lately established at Bella Coola is destined to supply the halibut fleet with a fine contingent of steady fishermen.

The one branch of the B. C. fisheries which declined last year, was that of sealing. This proved somewhat unprofitable, only 55,857 skins being taken as against 74,124 in 1895, but the decline in the value of sealing was much more than compensated by the growth as above indicated in the salmon and halibut fisheries.

Large takes of sturgeon of fine quality and big bulk which on occasions reach a weight of 100 pounds, were also made last year as heretofore and for local consumption large catches were made of cod-herring, smelts, oolachans, crustaceans and other fish.

Promising attempts are being made by the Dominion fishery department to acclimatise the eastern lobster and oyster in British Columbia waters and a large distribution made during 1895 of white fish spawn in the lakes and rivers of the Province is confidently expected, in another 12 months or so, to add to the home fish supply an edible variety inhabiting large bodies of fresh water, which have long been known and famed in Manitoba.

The general result of the B. C. fisheries during the year just expired should place the Province in regards this great industry in a position second only in Canada to that of the famous Maritime Province of Nova Scotia, again which in generous rivalry Canada's Pacific Province is now entering the list.

It may be stated conservatively that the value of the B. C. fisheries of 1893, including sealing, must certainly have approached, if not exceeded, a total of \$4,500,000.