

The mines operated during recent years are the Nos. 4 and 7 slopes and the Nos. 5, 6, and 8 shafts.

There has not been much change made in the plant since 1913, when electric power was substituted for steam and much new machinery and mine and railway equipment put in. Since this extensive equipment has been completed, the market conditions have been such that the demand for coal has not been sufficient to admit of the mines being worked at anything approaching full time. The output in 1913 was over 500,000 tons, but it is only expected to be about 200,000 tons this past year, a decrease from last year of some 134,000 tons.

At the company's Extension Colliery four mines have been in operation in recent years, and here conditions seem to have been more favourable, an output of about 165,000 tons having been made in 1915, which is an increase of 35,000 tons over that of the preceding year.

A standard-gauge railway connects this colliery with the harbour at Ladysmith and also with the E. & N. Railway, and here a coal-washery, extensive docks, and storage-bins have been erected.

Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Ltd.—This company operates a property at South Wellington, near Nanaimo, and also one at Morden. The production from the former property was seriously interfered with by water breaking into it from an adjacent abandoned and flooded mine, so that the output this year is about 25,045 tons less than last year.

The Morden mine began to produce this year, making an output of 22,500 tons, which practically offsets the decrease at South Wellington.

There was mined this year about 127,500 tons of coal, only 3,145 tons less than the previous year. This output is, however, far short of the 1911 output of 208,110 tons, showing that this company, like others, has suffered from the unfavourable market conditions for the last few years.

The company is also developing and equipping a colliery at Squash, on the northern part of Vancouver Island, which is not as yet producing.

Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Co.—This company operates the New East Wellington Colliery, or Jingle Pot mine, as it is locally called, situated two miles from the city of Nanaimo, and is working the Old Wellington seam, of which, however, the company has only a small area; the exhaustion of this is quite within sight, as all the working-places have reached the boundaries and the work now consists of extracting the pillars. The output in 1915 was about 46,034 tons, as compared with 107,158 tons in 1914.

NICOLA AND SIMILKAMEEN COALFIELDS.

These coalfields produced in 1915 about 101,000 tons of coal, as against 138,531 tons in 1914, a falling-off in output of 37,471 tons, which must be attributed to a limited local market and apparently high freight rates to the Coast.

In the Nicola District three companies produced coal in 1915—viz., Middlesboro Colliery, Inland Coal and Coke Company, and the Pacific Coast Colliery Company—making a joint output of 88,385 tons of coal, as against an output of 114,546 tons in 1914.

The Middlesboro Colliery is estimated to have produced this past year 54,500 tons of coal, a decrease of only 6,205 tons.

The Inland Coal and Coke Company is credited with having mined 32,820 tons of coal, a decrease of 20,461 tons.

The Pacific Coast Colliery Company is developing its property, but managed to produce 1,065 tons, an increase of 505 tons over the previous year.

In the Similkameen section the only company credited with a coal production is the Princeton Coal and Land Company at Princeton, which, in 1915, mined 12,075 tons, a decrease from the previous year of 6,800 tons.

The Coalmont Colliery did not produce coal in 1915; this property has been taken over by a Vancouver syndicate and is still under development.