

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1907.

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The official estimate of the approximate total mineral production of British Columbia for the year 1907 exhibits an increase over that of 1906 of \$758,437. The Provincial Mineralogist's published figures show production as under:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Gold, placer		\$ 700,000
Gold, lodeoz.	199,770	4,129,246
Total gold		\$ 4,829,246
Silveroz.	2,940,190	1,852,320
Leadlb.	48,309,660	2,318,864
Copperlb.	38,392,264	7,678,453
Total metalliferous		\$16,678,883
Coal (tons of 2,240 lbs.)	1,856,600	6,498,100
Coke (tons of 2,240 lbs.)	227,000	1,362,000
Other minerals (building materials, etc.)		1,200,000
Total production in 1907		\$25,738,983

In arriving at the approximate value of the several metals as shown above, the average market prices for the year, as published in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, have been taken, with a deduction of 5 per cent. off the price of silver and 10 per cent. off that of lead. For coal and coke what was considered a fair market value in British Columbia was taken. Accordingly the respective prices were as follows: Lode gold, \$20.67 per oz.; silver (net), 63 cents per oz.; lead (net), 4.8 cents per lb.; copper, 20 cents per lb.; coal, \$3.50 per long ton, and coke, \$6 per long ton.

For purposes of comparison the following table, showing production over a period of two years, is submitted:—

of that of 1906, the largest in the history of metal mining in the Province. As compared with 1906, though, there was a decrease of \$1,753,619. This loss was, however, more than compensated for in the considerable increase in the production of non-metalliferous minerals, chiefly coal, although coke contributed \$366,000 and building materials, etc., \$200,000, of this increase, the balance \$1,946,000 representing the proportion from coal.

Taking the various minerals separately, as shown respectively in the tables of production, the following comments are made:—

GOLD.

As already mentioned, the production of placer gold in 1907 was smaller than in any other year since 1898, and this notwithstanding that water conditions seemed, early in the season, to promise a favourable year for hydraulicking. It is possible that the revised figures, when the official returns shall all have been received, will prove the estimate now published to have been too low, yet while some gain may be made it is unlikely it will be sufficiently large to bring last season's production up to that of 1906. The districts which produce most placer gold in the Province are Cariboo and Cassiar. In the former Quesnel division had the assistance of a property taken over two years ago by a Guggenheim company which recovered about \$20,000 against nothing for 1906, while the Cariboo division was understood to have had several properties at work that had been idle several previous seasons, yet the preliminary advices record a total decrease of about \$150,000 in the total recovery throughout both divisions of this district. Atlin camp, for years the largest contributor of placed gold in British Columbia, is also reported to have made a smaller production than during any one of the three immediately preceding years—1904-1906—its decrease being shown as approximately \$100,000. The production of individual

Comparative Table Showing Quantity and Value of Mineral Products for Two Years, 1906-1907 (last year estimated).

	1906.		1907.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold, placeroz.		\$ 948,400		\$ 700,000
Gold, lodeoz.	224,027	4,630,639	199,770	4,129,246
Total gold		\$ 5,579,039		\$ 4,829,246
Silveroz.	2,990,262	1,897,320	2,940,190	1,852,320
Lead,lb.	52,408,217	2,667,578	48,309,660	2,318,864
Copperlb.	42,990,488	8,288,565	38,392,264	7,678,453
Total metalliferous		\$18,432,502		\$16,678,883
Coal (tons 2,240 lbs.)	1,517,303	4,551,909	1,856,600	6,498,100
Coke (tons 2,240 lbs.)	199,227	996,135	227,000	1,362,000
Other minerals (building materials, etc.)		1,000,000		1,200,000
Total production		\$24,980,546		\$25,738,983

The approximate total value of the production of metalliferous minerals in 1907 was, with the exception

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miners from Atlin creeks has been steadily becoming smaller for several years, yet it was expected that the operations of the Ruffner, Hamshaw, Guggenheim and other companies would have in the 1907 season more