Among the important companies which will remove to the great new fire insurance building running through from Cedar Street to Maiden Lane near William Street, will be the Preferred Accident Insurance Company, which has long been located at 290 Broadway.

* * * *

The important firm of T. Y. Brown & Co. now announce that they are prepared to accept business for the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company, of Manchester, and the Granite State Fire Insurance Company, of Portsmouth. After a decadence of some years, this firm is now acquiring strength, and is largely increasing its underwriting capacity.

* * * *

The North British & Mercantile, United States Branch, which withdrew from Arkansas on account of the obnoxious laws and rulings in that State several years ago, has re-entered the State, while the North British, of New York, its sister company, has withdrawn from the commonwealth.

QUERIST.

New York, March 6, 1912.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1911.

A Decrease in Value Owing to Strikes—Province is Credited with 27 p.c. of Mineral Production of Dominion in 26 Years.

A preliminary review and estimate of the mineral production of British Columbia during the year 1910 has been issued by Mr. William Fleet Robinson, provincial mineralogist. The estimated mineral production during 1911 is of a total value of $23,211,816. If the revised statement of production shall show this estimate to be approximately correct, as it is believed will be the case, it will be seen that the total value of production in 1911 will be about $3,165,250 less than that of 1910, and less than that of each other year since 1905.

The comparatively large decrease in value shown is not, however, says Mr. Robinson, an evidence of retrogression, for the mining industry of the Province most assuredly continues to make substantial progress, notwithstanding the diminution in production. The curtailment of output is clearly attributable, for the most part if not entirely, to the effects of the strike of coal-mine employees in the Crowsnest District, South-east Kootenay. The suspension of work at the mines and coke-ovens lasted for practically two-thirds of the year, and prevented production of coal and coke during that period to an extent that involved a decrease in value from East Kootenay alone of nearly $3,000,000. If to this be added the decrease in value of production of metals of one copper-producing company alone—as compared with 1910, of $1,600,000—which was the direct result of cutting off the supply of coke for its blast furnaces, there will be obtained a total decrease of more than $4,500,000, which was an immediate consequence of labour difficulties at the Crowsnest collieries. There were other temporary obstacles to production being maintained at normal rate.

PROVINCE'S PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

It is of interest to note that British Columbia's proportion of the mineral production of the whole of Canada is comparatively large. The aggregate value of the production of the Province to the end of 1911 is, approximately, $397,000,000, but since the published official records of that of the whole Dominion do not include production prior to 1886, the comparison must be confined to the period of twenty-six years—1886-1911. Placing the aggregate for the whole of Canada at $1,245,000,000 (which allows for 1911 a Dominion total of $115,000,000, an amount $10,000,000 greater than that of 1910), and British Columbia's proportion for the same period at $333,000,000, it follows that the Province has to be credited with nearly 27 per cent. of the value of the mineral production of the whole of Canada in the twenty-six year period under notice.

It is a striking fact, as indicating the substantial increase in the value of the mineral production of the Province in recent years, as compared with that of only a few years ago, that nearly 37 per cent. of the $333,000,000 mentioned above as the aggregate of production for twenty-six years is to be credited to five years, 1906-1910, while more than half—about 51.3 p.c.—was produced during the seven years, 1905-1911.

MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR TWO YEARS, 1910-1911.

The following table shows the quantities and value of the several minerals produced in the year 1910, and the estimated production in 1911:—

	1910. Value.	1911. Value.	Decrease.
Gold, placer	$ 540,000	$ 468,000	$ 72,000
" lode	5,533,380	4,652,465	880,915
Total gold	$ 6,073,380	$ 5,120,465	$ 952,915
Silver	1,245,016	972,946	272,070
Lead	1,386,350	1,113,405	272,945
Copper	4,871,512	4,890,100	* 18,588
Zinc	192,473	127,400	65,073
Total metalliferous	$13,768,731	$12,224,316	....
Coal	9,800,161	8,522,500	1,277,661
Coke	1,308,174	465,000	843,174
Building Materials etc.	1,500,000	2,000,000	* 500,000
Total value of production	$26,377,066	$23,211,816	....

*Increase.

SUMMARY.

Decrease in metalliferous minerals	$1,544,415
" " coal and coke	2,120,835
	$3,665,250
Less increase in building materials, etc.	500,000
Net decrease in year's production	$3,165,250

The usual monthly compilation by the London Banker's Magazine of the aggregate values of 387 securities dealt in on the London Stock Exchange shows the small decrease for the month of February of £492,000. On February 20 the value was £3,603,860,000. The increased value of British and India funds, which reflected the improved international political situation, especially the prospects of an *entente* with Germany, was offset by a sharp decline in the South African market. Comparisons are:—

Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on Feb. 20, 1912	£3,603,860,000
Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on Jan. 20, 1912	3,603,368,000
Increase	£492,000