Co., Ltd.), in Boundary district, and the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd., in Rossland camp, Trail mining division. For a number of years the Boundary district produced more copper than any other in Canada, but in quite recent years its output has fallen off considerably while that of the Coast district of British Columbia has increased until now the latter is a long way in the lead in the province, with every indication of making further increase, while the Boundary district is showing a steadily diminishing production. In fact there does not seem to be a reasonable prospect of any early large increase in the production from interior district mines, not at any rate until the Canada Copper Corporation shall be making a considerable output of ore from its big mine on Copper Mountain, in Similkameen district, which may not be before the close of next year.

Three Principal Producing Districts.

Reverting to the report of the commission, Dr. Wilson's "Report on the Possibility of Producing Refined Copper in Canada," dealt first with the copper resources of the Dominion, and in this connection he mentioned three principal producing districts, namely (a) Kootenays, (b) Boundary, and (c) Coast. The situation to-day is different, in that the output of copper from mines in Kootenay and Boundary districts may be expected to be smaller in 1918 than in any year since it attained to considerable proportions in these districts. The chief reasons for this are that the Consolidated Company has quite lately very much reduced, if not entirely discontinued for the time being, production of ore at its mines in Rossland camp, in West Kootenay, while in Boundary district the smelting works of the Granby Co. and the Canada Copper Corporation, respectively, are not operating at full capacity, nor does the ore these companies are now mining contain as high an average of copper as that of a few years ago from the same mines. With only one company in Rossland camp now maintaining its normal production, namely, the Le Roi No. 2, Ltd., operating the Josie group of mines, from which an output of between 500,000 and 700,000 lb. of copper may be expected this year, with little copper ore being mined in Nelson mining division this year; with decreased tonnage and a smaller copper content in ore from Boundary mines, and with the Iron Mask, near Kamloops, being the only other mine worth mentioning among the smaller producers of copper in the interior districts, it seems evident that there must be expected a serious falling off in the output of copper from these districts this year.

As to the Coast district—there does not appear to be good reason to look for any appreciably large increase in output except the Granby Company shall make it. The Britannia Company is reported to have decided not to continue the policy of considerable expansion of operations planned earlier. So far as known, there is little promise of much production from smaller mines, neither in Howe Sound region nor on Texada and Vancouver Islands. Progress is reported from two mines in Sooke district, Vancouver Island, but their output cannot be large until much more ore shall have been developed. In Quatsino division of Vancouver Island, the Coast Copper Co., controlled by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., has done much development work, but until a railway shall have been constructed to provide transportation facilities and arrangements made for reduction of the ore, no production of copper can be expected from that source. Neither is there assurance of much improvement soon as regards copper mining properties on Moresby Island of the Queen Charlotte group, nor of any other part of the upper Coast district, except it be in the district about Observatory inlet outside of the parts controlled by the Granby Co. In Omineca division, in camps within reach of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, there are copper properties, but the only one yet sufficiently developed to make a production of more than an occasional small shipment is the Rocher de Boule Copper Co.'s mine, which has already attained to a production of between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 lb. of copper in a year.

More Specific Information.

The general situation to-day in regard to the production of copper in British Columbia having been outlined it may be desirable that more specific information be given in regard to the chief producing districts.

Kootenay.—Dr. Wilson stated in his report, concerning the Kootenays, that in 1914 Rossland made a production of 3,779,830 lb. of copper and Nelson 586,764 lb., together 4,366,594 lb. He added: "These are both tributary to the smeltery of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada (C.P.R.) at Trail. The Rossland ores are essentially gold ores; they, however, contain a small amount of copper in the form of a sulphide, not much more than one-half of one per cent., but sufficient to make it feasible to recover the gold by the methods of the copper smelter."

On May 3 "The Trail News" published the following: "One of the contributing causes of heavily curtailing gold-copper ore shipments from Rossland mines yesterday was the heavy mine taxes imposed by the Provincial Government. This, together with the heavy increase in cost of powder and everything else pertaining to mining—and the further fact that Rossland ores contain but a few pounds of copper to the ton, being most in gold value, is understood to have impelled the Consolidated Co. to lay off most of the miners employed in its Rossland mines. A few will be kept at development, and some shipments of ore will possibly be made —enough, perhaps, to keep one copper furnace at the company's smeltery at Trail in operation, together with the shipments of high-grade copper ore that are being received here from various custom sources, thus also keeping the copper refinery in operation. . . . . At the Trail smeltery, all the copper furnaces but one have been blown out." The notice issued at Rossland by the Consolidated Co. reads as follows: "Large increases in the various items entering into the mining and smelting of Rossland ores, such as wages, cost of explosives, coke, steel, general mine and smeltery supplies, without adequate compensation in value by way of increased metal prices, coupled with increased taxation, has made it necessary for the company to suspend shipments from its Rossland mines indefinitely. An endeavor will be made to keep a small force on development work, and to place the remainder of the company's Rossland employees at the smeltery, the Sullivan mine, Kimberley, and other lead-silver properties of the company." It will thus be seen that the production of copper in the Kootenay districts is likely to be very small this year, with only one of the five copper blast furnaces at Trail being operated.

Boundary.—As to the Boundary district—in the Mines Handbook for 1918, it is stated concerning Granby Co.'s mines, that "Ore now being mined at Phoenix yields slightly less than 15 lb. copper and about 84c gold and silver per ton. . . . On the Gold Drop only 80,000 tons of ore remains to be extracted, and the Snowshoe, Curlew, and Monarch claims are almost worked out.