

MINES DEPARTMENT ISSUES ITS REPORT

Progress of the Industry on the Island During the Past Year is Recorded

The annual report of the department of mines, which contains a vast deal of interesting information regarding the mining industries of the province, drawn largely from official sources, was issued yesterday. From this is reprinted below the summary of the progress of mining throughout the province during the past year, as well as the detailed reports of the responsible officials in the different mining divisions of Vancouver Island.

The report also contains a tabulated list of accidents sustained in metalliferous mines during 1907. It appears that there were 94 accidents all told throughout the province, which in view of the extent of the industry, does not appear to be large. Of these accidents twenty per cent. were fatal, twenty per cent. were serious, and the remainder were slight. The number works out at 6.32 accidents for every 100,000 tons of ore mined, and 1.54 for every 1,000 men employed. The causes of the accidents, which are enumerated, are blasting, falling into old holes, powder in shafts and cages, falling down shafts or winzes, falling from chutes, underground and surface.

The value of the mineral products of the Province for the year 1907 is greater than for any preceding year, and amounts to \$25,832,650, showing an increase over the last year of \$2,024,414, equivalent to an increase of 8.6 per cent., and is greater than the output of 1905 about 15.2 per cent., and 35.3 per cent. greater than that of 1904. An analysis of the returns shows that this increase is due to the greater tonnage of low-grade ore mined in the Boundary district, and also to an increased tonnage from the collieries, both in coal and coke.

The number of mines from which shipments were made in 1907 was 147; but of these only 72 shipped more than 100 tons each during the year. There were in the Province 36 mines that shipped in excess of 1,000 tons each during the year. The largest were in the Boundary District, 3 in the Nelson, 3 in the Coast, 4 in the Rossland, 3 in the Fort Steele, M.D., 3 in the Slooan District, and 1 in the Lardau, M.D.

The following table shows the number of mines which were in operation in the year 1907, the Districts in which they are located, and the tonnage produced in each district, together with the number of men employed, both above and below ground:

Table with 4 columns: District, No. of Mines, Men emp'd in Mines, and Total. Rows include Casiar, Skeena, Fort Steele, Windermere, West Kootenay, Alhambra, Nelson, Slooan, Trail, Other Divisions, Yale, Boundary, Ashcroft-Kamloops, Similkameen-Vernon, Coast, and a Total row.

In explanation of the table, it should be said that in its preparation, a mine credited in the table with four men for 12 months, so that the total given is less than the actual number of individuals who worked in mines during the year.

The "labor employed to the ton of ore mined" forms some criterion of the cost of mining in a camp, since the cost of labor is in a more or less constant proportion to such total cost. In this respect it is interesting to note in the various districts the number of tons of ore mined to each man employed. An analysis of the above table shows, approximately, the number of tons of ore mined to each man employed. An analysis of the above table shows, approximately, the number of tons of ore mined to each man employed.

On Vancouver Island three new collieries have begun shipping, as yet on a very small scale, but still a beginning. These new collieries have shipped a total of 5,896 tons of coal, and 59,890 tons of coke during the year.

The tables and statistics the output of the Middlebrook Colliery has been included in the Coast Collieries. The gross output of the coal mines of the Province for the year 1907 was 2,219,908 tons (2,240 lbs.), of which 44,760 tons were added to stock, leaving a total consumption of 2,175,148 tons of coal; of this amount, 916,262 tons were sold for consumption in Canada, 672,114 tons were sold for export, making the total of coal sales for the year 1,588,376 tons; of the balance of the coal, 419,544 tons were used in making coke, and 165,831 tons under colliery boilers, etc.

From this amount of coal there were produced 222,812 tons (2,240 lbs.) of coke, of which 7,224 tons were added to stock, leaving the net coke sales of 215,588 tons, of which about 155,578 tons were consumed in Canada and 60,110 tons exported.

The following table indicates the tonnage of coal and coke output of the Province was sold:—

Table with 3 columns: Sold for consumption in Canada (Tons—2,240 lbs.), Sold for export to other countries (Tons—2,240 lbs.), and Total for District.

The total coal sales of the Coast Collieries show an increase of 99,873 tons, or about 4.2 per cent. over the preceding year, and the increase would have been much greater but for the financial depression in California, the chief export market. This is evidenced by the fact that 44,760 tons of coal actually mined was not sold but added to stock. The consumption of coal in that portion of British Columbia served by the Coast Collieries shows an increase of 166,935 tons, or 21.4 per cent. over last year, indicating an increasing demand for fuel in the home market, the local production being unable to keep up with the demand.

On the other hand, the sales for export to the United States show a decrease of 10,000 tons, or about 1.5 per cent. The export trade to other countries, while still insignificant, shows an increase over the previous year of about 40 per cent.

The production of coke on the Coast is confined to one company, the Wellington Colliery Co., which made in 1907 some 1,687,202 tons of coke. The sales of coke on the Coast in 1907 were 1,459,202 tons, as against 1,454,700 tons in 1906—practically no change. The export sales of coke, which in 1906 amounted to 8,904 tons, in 1907 were only 220 tons—practically nothing.

Rocky Mountain Coal Field. In the Rocky Mountain coal field, the western slope of the mountains is in this province, and here there are three separate collieries being worked, viz.: Michel, Coal Creek and Carbonado collieries—all operated by the Crown's Nest Pass Coal Co., Ltd., although the last mentioned colliery has though no production this last year, but is now opened up again.

At Hosmer, between Fernie and Michel, interests connected with the C. P. Ry. are opening up a large and extensively equipped colliery, which will not ship coal until 1908. The only operating company, the Crown's Nest Pass Coal Co., mined during the year 1907 some 878,731 tons of coal.

The actual production of coal in British Columbia during the year 1907 has been practically confined to the Crown's Nest Pass Collieries in South-East Kootenay, and to the Wellington Colliery Co. and the Western Fuel Co. operating on Vancouver Island. In addition to these, a new colliery has been opened up at Westwater, near Comox, in the Nicola Valley, by the Nicola Valley Coal and Coke Co., which shipped during the last three months of the year, since it secured railway connection, some 10,000 tons of coal.

(2,240 lbs.) of which 5,896 tons were carried over the year as stock, while 200,877 tons were sold as coke, 140,857 tons for consumption in Canada, and 59,890 tons exported to other countries. The production of coke in 1907 shows an increase over the preceding year of 22,381 tons, while the sales of coke an increase of 19,831 tons, equally divided between the Canadian and United States markets. The coke sales of this company would have been considerably greater but that the drop in the selling price of copper, followed by a financial depression, caused the large smelters in the Boundary district, which obtain their coke supply here, to suspend operations for about two months out of the year. The coal and coke production was adversely affected during the earlier part of the year by a shortage of cars, and insufficient labor with which to carry on the work.

Placer Gold. The production of placer gold during the year 1907 was about \$282,000, a decrease of \$120,400, or 13.7 per cent., as compared with the preceding year. A large proportion of the placer gold is subject to sudden fluctuations, the discovery of new diggings causing a rise, and the exhaustion of old ones a fall. This class of mining, a few years since the richer ground worked out and it takes some years to get a new hydraulic and other forms of machine.

The two dredges, which were operated for a short time a couple of years ago have now been abandoned, it being admitted that they were not carrying sufficient gold, the character of the deposit—a clayey gravel containing large boulders, together with hard unyielding rock—rendered the problem a hard one to solve. After the difficulties to be experienced with this gravel has been ascertained, a steam shovel was established on 'Far hats, dredging up the gravel and conveying it to a hopper, where a washing apparatus, which obviates many of the troubles met with in dredging. This method is reported to be in operation and is reported to have made a good saving and a large profit, although the amount of gold recovered has not yet been ascertained.

The Dease Lake section of the Stikine district has been disappointing this year owing to mishaps to the two companies working there. The 'Hudson Bay' mine, which has been worked since the time of the gold rush, but the district has fairly maintained its standard of production, some \$100,000 having been recovered this year.

Fort Steele division still continues to produce, but the output is not so good as in previous years. The lower Fraser river and the Thompson river have almost ceased to produce, but there has been nothing but a success. Lode Gold. The value of the gold produced from lode mining in the province during the year 1907 was \$4,035,020, a decrease of \$1,100,000, or about 27 per cent. over the preceding year. About 95 per cent. of the gold thus produced is recovered from smelting, the remainder being milled about 32,000 tons of ore, from which was recovered about \$475,000.

Silver. The total amount of silver produced in the province during the year 1907 was 2,745,448 ounces, valued at \$1,703,825, a decrease in amount of 244,814 ounces, and in value of the product of \$128,495. About 72 per cent. of the silver produced is recovered from the smelting of argentiferous galena, the remainder being found in conjunction with other minerals.

The Slooan district, including Alhambra north mining division, provided 32 per cent. of the total output of both gold and silver in the province. These districts is less than it was last year.

Lead. There was produced in the province during 1907 about 47,738,703 pounds of lead, having a market value of \$2,214,458, a decrease, as compared with the preceding year, of \$1,100,000, or about 33 per cent. The lead production is derived from the mine in the Fort Steele mining division, as is shown in the following table:

Table with 3 columns: Mining District, lbs. lead, p.c. total, and Value. Rows include Fort Steele, Alhambra, Nelson, and All other districts.

Copper. The output of copper for 1907 was 40,832,720 lbs., having a gross value of \$3,486,954, a decrease, as compared with the preceding year, of \$1,100,000, or about 31 per cent. The copper production is derived from the mine in the Fort Steele mining division, as is shown in the following table:

TAKE NOTICE that 30 days after date I intend to apply to F. S. Huxley for a renewal of license for the Dease Lake Hotel. G. S. ARNETT, Victoria, May 1, 1908.

The following table shows the production of the various districts for the years 1905, 1906 and 1907:

Table with 4 columns: District, 1905, 1906, 1907. Rows include Boundary, Rossland, Coast & Cassiar, Yale-Kamloops, Nelson, and Other Districts.

The average assay of the copper ore of the various camps, based upon the copper recovered, was as follows:— Boundary, 1.34 per cent copper; Coast, 1.99 per cent, and Rossland, 0.858 per cent copper.

Other Minerals. There has been practically no iron ore mined in the province this past year, with the exception of some 1,500 tons of small brickyard, although two or three larger yards have been established near Vancouver.

The fire brick plant at Comox, formerly situated at the vicinity of the larger towns and cities. For the most part, the output is the product of small brickyards, although two or three larger yards have been established near Vancouver.

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stone, granite and andesite have been in demand, but become general, and several very good quarries of sandstone, granite and andesite have been opened up on tide water. In a previous report of this bureau a detailed description was given of the more important quarries.

The manufacture of red brick is increasing rapidly to supply an increasing demand. Suitable clay deposits are found in all districts, but the manufacture on any important scale has been confined to the vicinity of the larger towns and cities. For the most part, the output is the product of small brickyards, although two or three larger yards have been established near Vancouver.

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First June Suggestions

- Canadian Wheat Flakes, per package... 30c
Royal Household Flour, per sack... \$2.00
Lake of the Woods Flour, per sack... \$2.00
Calgary Flour, per sack... \$2.00
B. C. Granulated Sugar, 20-lb. sack... \$1.25
B. C. Granulated Sugar, 100-lb. sack... \$6.00

W. O. WALLACE, THE FAMILY... CASH GROCERY

Phone 312 --- Corner Yates and Douglas Streets

TWO DAYS

Genuine Sacrifice Sale of CUTLERY

Commencing Tuesday next

Watch our Tuesday advertisement and Yates Street Window display

B. C. HARDWARE CO., LTD.

Cor. Yates and Broad Sts Phone 82 P.O. Box 683

THE LOCAL MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Rows include Royal Household, Lake of the Woods, Calgary, Wild Rice, etc.

FEAST FOR THE MORBID

Five Thousand People Gather at Auction Sale of Articles on Guinness Murder Farm

Laporte, Ind., May 30.—The auction sale of the personal property left by Mrs. Belle Guinness, who was murdered by her husband, James Guinness, on the morning of May 21, 1907, was held at the Guinness farm, near Laporte, Ind., on the morning of May 30. The sale was attended by between four and five thousand people. Many of the articles were sold for ten times their cost. It is estimated that the total receipts were more than three times what they would have been at an ordinary sale.

KILLED WITH HAMMER

Young Man Tells Chicago Police Story of Murder of Robert C. Holmes

Chicago, May 30.—David Jacobson, 19 years of age, who was arrested on suspicion of having a knowledge of the murder of Robert C. Holmes, the purchasing agent of the Edison Commonwealth Company, who was found dead in an alley on the morning of May 21, has confessed to the police that he was present at the killing of Holmes, although he denies having taken part in the actual murder. Jacobson, in his confession, implicates other men who are in custody. They are Samuel McEwen, colored; Charles Lewis and George Miller. Their ages range from 13 to 24.

Will Get Labor Advice

The question of whether the municipality is responsible for damage done by water flowing from the higher levels upon the property of those on a lower level was brought up by a communication from Messrs. Elliott & Shandley, barristers, who, on behalf of the city, are representing the city in the matter of the land formerly known as the North Dairy Farm, claimed by the city. The matter is being argued before the court, and it is expected that a decision will be made in the near future.

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CARTER BY

Last of Count

The Carter family, which has been in the news for some time, is reported to have been seen yesterday. The family, which includes Mr. Carter, Mrs. Carter, and their children, were seen in the city. The family is reported to be in good health and is expected to remain in the city for some time.

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