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Mineral Production in British Columbia in 1918

Preliminary Estimate, as prepared by Provincial Mineralogist, Shows a Production of \$41,083,093, an Increase of \$4,072,701—Coal Contributed Most to Increase.

The Honorable William Sloan, Minister of Mines, has recently given out a preliminary review and estimate of the mineral production of British Columbia for the year 1918 in a bulletin. This bulletin is prepared by William Fleet Robertson, Provincial Mineralogist. The report gives the production much larger than was anticipated, since early estimates were in the neighborhood of \$37,500,000. Mr. Robertson says:

This bulletin has been prepared before the receipt of the official reports for the year 1918 of the Gold Commissioners and Resident Engineers of the Province, and the customary returns of mineral production annually made by managers of mines and reduction works; consequently it must necessarily be regarded as being simply a preliminary review of the progress of the past year, together with an estimate of the quantities and value of the several mineral products of the Province, which, it is believed, will prove to be approximately correct.

The accompanying table shows an estimated mineral production during 1918 of a total value of \$41,083,093. It will be seen that the total value of the production of 1918, as estimated, is \$4,072,701 greater than that of 1917, equivalent to an increase of about 11 per cent.

Only once in the history of the Province's mineral statistics has this output been exceeded, and that was in 1916, when the year's mineral output amounted to \$42,290,462, only 2.9 per cent. greater than 1918; and it must be remembered that 1916 was a phenomenal year, with metal prices temporarily inflated, due to war conditions. As compared with earlier years, the production of 1918 shows up even more favourably, for it exceeds the next highest recorded production—\$32,440,800, made in 1912—by \$8,642,293, or about 26.6 per cent.

The value of the products of the metalliferous mines this year was about equal to the preceding year, exceeding it by only about \$3,687.

The great increase made is, therefore, almost entirely attributable to the products of the collieries, which show

outputs, both of coal and coke, exceeding those of the preceding year; the increased output of coal being some 142,093 tons, while that of coke was 30,751 tons.

In addition to this, the price of the coal has been raised by the exigencies of the war, and these two factors combined have caused the value of the colliery products this year to amount to about \$12,794,932; an increase over the preceding year of \$4,310,589.

The increase in the selling price of coal has been allowed at various times by the Dominion Government Fuel Controller, until, as nearly as can be calculated, the average price of coal for the year over the Province as a whole has been approximately \$5 a ton, and the similar average price for coke about \$7 a ton. What additional value this increased selling price gave to this year's output of coal and coke may be realized by comparison with the average selling prices assumed in former years of \$3.50 a ton for coal and \$6 a ton for coke. This additional value this year would amount to about \$3,628,758.

As regards the products of the metalliferous mines of the Province, as already noted, the combined values of these products, as estimated, shows an increase over the preceding year of some \$3,687; not a very great increase, to be sure, but nevertheless an increase, which, under the many adverse conditions prevailing, is very encouraging.

The combined output of placer and lode gold shows an increase of \$695,705—a rather pleasant surprise considering the greatly increased operating costs and the fact that the selling price of gold remains stationary.

Of these products, the placer gold production shows a decrease of \$188,000, while lode gold shows an increase of \$883,705, attributable to more active work in the Rossland camp and to a full year's output from the Surf Inlet mine—a new producer.

The value of the silver production this year is greater than that of the previous year by about \$335,371, thanks to the materially higher market value of the metal, for the quantity of silver produced shows a decrease of 43,355 oz.

Conversely, the value of the production of both lead and copper are each lower this year than in 1917, although

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1918

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON PACK, SEASON 1918

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF THE INSURANCE PROFESSION

PRODUCTION OF AEROPLANE SPRUCE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

RECENT ANNUAL REPORTS

MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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