

his return recently from a visit to the district: "The prospects of Atlin at the present time are better than for several years past. Much development is being done in the placer gold mining district, and nearly all companies are extending their hydraulic mining plants. The Engineer group of mines has lately been shipping ore which has given high assays, and it is expected big developments will take place on the property in the near future."

The fall in prices of lead, silver, and copper during the financial year ended June 30, last, is indicated in the following comparative notes: Lead in London on June 30, 1907, was £20 per ton; on June 30, 1908, it was £12.5.0; decrease, £7.15.0 per ton. Silver in New York was 67 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per oz. on the former date and 53 $\frac{5}{8}$ cents on the latter; decrease, 13 $\frac{5}{8}$ cents per oz. Copper in New York was 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ cents per lb. on the former date and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents on the latter; decrease, 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ cents per lb. The difference to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada was a total decrease in receipts of more than \$430,000. That is to say if the company's products had been sold all through the year at prices ruling on June 30, 1907, it would have derived about \$430,000 more than it did from sales of them.

Mr. Edmund B. Kirby, manager of the Federal Lead Company at Flat River, Missouri, U.S.A., in his address to the graduating class of the Missouri School of Mines, said: "What is not clearly recognized, is the remarkable work of the mining journals in developing the professional spirit of engineers and the feeling of fraternity among all these soldiers of fortune who constitute the mining world. Their prompt and thorough collection of news from the remotest mining districts, the eager search for every scientific and technical discovery which might be of use, their pressure for the interchange of views; these have been doing a constructive work for the entire mining world, of which it is yet hardly conscious. Today these journals stand foremost among the forces which are welding mining engineers into closer relations with each other, and with the business interests which they serve."

Returns published in the *Nelson Daily News* show that during eight months of the current year, to August 29, there was shipped from Boundary and Kootenay mines a total of 1,112,326 tons of ore. The proportion from mines in the Boundary district was given as 865,279 tons; Rossland mines contributed 182,355 tons; the remainder came chiefly from mines in Nelson and Slocan mining divisions of West Kootenay, and Fort Steele division of East Kootenay. More than half the total output—685,000 tons—was smelted at the Granby Company's smelter at Grand Forks; some 158,000 tons at the British Columbia Copper Company's smelter at Greenwood, and about

22,000 tons at the Dominion Copper Company's works at Boundary Falls. The total smelted in the Boundary district was, therefore, 865,000 tons. About 170,000 tons were treated at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's works at Trail, and 50,000 tons at the Le Roi Mining Company's smelter at Northport, while practically all the remainder was milled at the several gold-quartz and silver-lead concentrating mills operating in the Kootenay districts.

COAL MINING IN THE WEST.

COAL MINING in Western Canada is the subject of an interesting, though necessarily condensed, review contributed to *Westward Ho!* for August by Mr. Wm. Blakemore, M.I.M.E. (Greenwell Gold Medalist, 1894). Space restrictions prevented much detail being given of the numerous coal mines now being operated in Western Alberta and British Columbia, so, with the exception of the Hosmer mines, in the Crow's Nest Pass, and the Bankhead mines, near Banff, information is general rather than particular. Notwithstanding this, though, the article conveys a good idea of the extent and growing importance of coal mining in the West. A suggestion of this is contained in the following statement: "The aggregate capacity of all these mines is about 5,000,000 tons, a figure which would represent the shipments this year but for the temporary restriction of operations owing to financial conditions." This is probably an over-sanguine present view, but it is quite probable that two or three years hence production will have increased to such an extent that the combined total for a year of British Columbia and Alberta will reach the comparatively large quantity mentioned.

Two other short quotations must suffice to indicate Mr. Blakemore's conclusions. He says: "This is indeed a remarkable showing and evidences not only the extensive deposits of coal in the West and the facility of access, but the enterprise of those who with very little outside capital to aid them have within the short period of ten years developed the productive capacity of the country bordering on the Rockies 500 per cent."

Finally he says, in part: "I want to conclude this brief survey of the situation by pointing out that the resources of Western Canada are only just beginning to be revealed. Losing sight of the precious metals and regarding coal and iron only, I am convinced that we are within measurable distance of the time when this great new western world will cease to import its manufactures and will produce within its own borders, by the development of its resources, everything which industry can contribute to the upbuilding of a civilized country."

Half a dozen illustrations add to the usefulness of the article, which should be carefully read by all interested in the development of the coal mining industry of the West.