

GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, AND LEAD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Nature has been lavish in her gifts to British Columbia. The mountain sides are clothed to the snow line in trees, many of them of amazing height and girth, but gradually disappearing under the imbrues of the lumberman. The inland lakes and streams serve as waterways, but are also teeming with fish, the delight of the sportsman, while the harder land man seeks for bear and caribou among the fells. The rushing river is alive with salmon, but in places it also yields sands of gold. The fertile valleys launch in the summer sun, and autumn leads the orchard trees to breaking with the finest fruits. And high above all, the majestic snow-capped, glacier-flanked mountains pierce heavens blue. Not always thus, for there are many stony valleys, and bare mountain sides, and naked, treeless tracts, but their very nakedness is a boon to the prospector, enabling him to examine their surface, and, digging under their apparently unprospecting exterior, to bring to light veins and masses of ore, yielding to the treatment of the modern smelter result in precious metals undreamt of by the alchemists of old.

The discovery and development of ore bodies have been chiefly in the neighbourhood of the railways and waterways already opened up in the south-eastern district of British Columbia. Only a few of the mines will be referred to, but they will give an indication of the mineral wealth of that region.

The silver-lead mines of St. Eugene in the East Kootenay district, belonging to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, were begun in 1900. There are opening up the mountain side as high as 1150 feet above the level of Kootenay Lake, and shafts sunk 750 feet under that level. Two parallel veins about 200 feet apart, with branches between, sometimes widening out into masses 10 feet wide, are being mined at the rate of 500 tons a day of ore suitable for the concentrator. Put through the concentrator, and there treated by crushing, washing, and separation, each six tons yield one ton of rich residue, which, sent to the smelting works of the Company and passed through the necessary processes, produces 60 per cent. of lead and 25 ounces of silver.

In copper ore, yielding also gold and silver, there have been large developments in this region at Rossland, Greenwood, and Granby. The Le Roi mine of Rossland have been worked to a depth of 1650 feet in ore lying in more or less irregular veins or pockets averaging 50 feet wide. The yield of this mine during the 11 years of its existence has been on an average, per ton of ore, nearly half an ounce of gold, three quarters of an ounce of silver, and 28 lbs. of copper, of which the total value is £3 stg.

The Mother Lode mine at Greenwood, belonging to the British Columbia Copper Company, produces 1500 tons of ore per day from an ore body 150 to 250 feet wide, and opened up at present to a depth of 100 feet. The smelter belonging to this Company treated ore last year at the rate of 2000 tons a day, producing during the year 15 million pounds weight of copper.

But it is at Granby mines, belonging to Granby Consolidated Mining Smelting and Power Company, that the working of this ore is being