

Coal Production in British Columbia in 1916

The Coal Output in 1916 Was 2,485,580 Long Tons, an Increase of 472,964 Over 1915—Coke Output Was 267,725 Tons, an Increase Over the Previous Year of 21,854—Details of Production and Development as Given in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines.

The gross production of coal in 1916 was 2,485,580 long tons, of which 401,487 tons was made into coke, leaving the net production at 2,084,093 tons. These figures show an increase, as compared with 1915, of 513,000 tons gross and of 472,964 tons net. The quantity of coke made was 267,725 tons, which is an increase of about 21,854 tons as compared with 1915. For purposes of comparison the following table is shown:—

		1914	1915	1916
Coal, gross	tons, 2,240 lb.	2,166,428	1,972,580	2,485,580
Less made into coke.....	"	355,461	361,451	401,487
Coal, net	"	1,810,967	1,611,129	2,084,093
Coke made	"	234,577	245,871	267,725

Summarizing the Provincial production of coal, the following table shows the output:—

		1914	1915	1916
Vancouver Island mines.....	tons, 2,240 lb.	1,072,314	1,020,942	1,492,761
Nicola and Similkameen mines ..	"	138,931	99,066	110,549
Crowsnest mines	"	955,183	852,572	882,270
Total quantity of coal mined....	"	2,166,428	1,972,580	2,485,580
Less made into coke.....	"	355,461	361,451	401,487
Net quantity of coal produced ..	"	1,810,967	1,611,129	2,084,093

In addition to the above net production of coal, there was made the coke production shown in the following table:—

		1914	1915	1916
Vancouver Island collieries.....	tons, 2,240 lb.		5,450	27,604
Nicola and Similkameen collieries....	"			
Crowsnest District collieries	"	234,577	240,421	240,121
Total coke production	"	234,577	245,871	267,725

As will be seen from the above figures, the net coal production this year is 472,964 tons more than it was in 1915, and greater than it has been since 1913.

This output would have been considerably greater had not the Crow's Nest Collieries met with a series of misfortunes during the year that interfered with production, and in addition to this there was a serious shortage of labor—partly caused by the heavy enlistment of the younger men—and in the fall there were labor troubles.

All these contributed to occasion a shortage of both coal and coke, when the demand was most keen.

Coke.—The production of coke in 1916 was 267,725 tons (2,240 lb), which is 21,854 tons greater than the preceding year, and, with the exception of the year 1913, is greater than any year since 1905.

The high market price of the metals, particularly copper, kept the copper-smelting plants, both of the Interior and the Coast, running to nearly full capacity, or as the coke supply would permit.

Of this gross coke production, 240,121 tons was made by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company in East Kootenay, and the remaining 27,604 tons was made by the Canadian Collieries at Comox, V. I.

The total coal sales of the Coast collieries for the year show, as compared with the sales of the previous year, an increase of 368,219 tons, equivalent to over 42 per cent.

The collieries of the Coast district, which includes those on Vancouver Island and in the Nicola-Princeton fields, mined 1,603,310 tons of coal in 1916, while 18,238 tons was taken from stock, making 1,621,548 tons distributed from these collieries in 1916. This amount was distributed thus:—

Sold as coal in Canada.....	782,733 tons
Sold as coal in United States	450,926 "
Sold as coal in other countries.....	6,166 "
Total sold as coal	1,239,825 tons
Used under companies' boilers, etc.....	135,037 "
Used in making coke.....	49,496 "
Lost in washing, etc.....	197,190 "
	1,621,548 "
Minus coal taken from stock.....	18,238 "
Gross output	1,603,310 "

The consumption of coal sold in that part of British Columbia served by the Vancouver Island collieries shows this year an increase of 189,817 tons, or about 38 per cent. from the preceding year; the amount exported to the United States was 183,930 tons greater, and 6,166 tons of coal was exported to other countries.

Only one company in the Coast District—the Canadian Collieries, Limited—has ever made coke, and this year the ovens were again put in operation, after several years of inactivity.

This company produced in 1916 some 27,604 tons (2,240 lb) of coke, of which 26,043 tons was sold in Canada, and 1,561 tons was added to stock.

On Vancouver Island, five companies produced coal this year—the Canadian Collieries, Limited, the Western Fuel Company, the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, the Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Company, and the Nanoose Colliery; the majority of these companies each operate two, or more, collieries. The combined gross output of the Island collieries was 1,492,761 tons.

In the Nicola and Princeton coal fields of the Coast District, the Middlesboro Colliery Company produced 49,005 tons of coal; the Princeton Colliery, 29,458 tons; the Inland Coal and Coke Syndicate (formerly Coal Hill Syndicate), 31,295 tons; the Pacific Coast Colliery Company, 453 tons; and the Merritt Collieries, Limited, 338 tons.

The total output of this portion of the sub-district was 110,549 tons.

There were only two companies operating in this district this past year—the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, operating two separate collieries, the combined output of which was 813,250 tons; and the Corbin Coke and Coal Company, which made an output of 69,020 tons; making a gross output for the district for 1916 of 882,270 tons of coal. The Hosmer Mines, Limited, did not operate.

In addition to the coal mined 41 tons was taken from stock, making the amount of coal distributed from the collieries 882,311 tons.

Of this gross tonnage 351,991 tons was used in the manufacture of coke, of which there was produced 240,121 tons (2,240 lb).

The coke sold this year amounted to 241,790 tons, of which 1,669 tons was taken from stock.

The following table shows the distribution made of the coal of this district:—

Sold as coal in Canada.....	75,319 tons
Sold as coal in United States.....	386,953 "
Total sold as coal.....	462,272 tons
Used by the companies in making coke.....	351,991 "
Used by the companies under boilers, etc.....	68,048 "
	882,311 "
Minus coal taken from stock.....	41 "
Gross output	822,270 "

The greater part of the gross Provincial production is still being mined by three companies—the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company of East Kootenay, the Canadian Collieries and the Western Fuel Company of Vancouver Island,