

able and we note that the total for the Province was \$17,495,954 of which Trail Creek Division's proportion was \$4,255,958—a little less than 25 per cent. Lately we received a marked copy of the report of the President of the Rossland Board of Trade, so we assume that it is desired we make some reference to it. We now find the statement of the President in connection with the above-mentioned matter, as printed in the report, to be as follows: "Out of a total metallic production of \$9,881,639, for the whole of Southern Kootenay and Southern Yale in 1903, Rossland produced \$4,251,463, or more than 43 per cent. of the total." (The italics used above are our own.) It is Rossland's misfortune to have much matter supplied for publication by an individual who is long on conceit and short on accuracy, so that mis-statements are frequent. As an instance of this we may mention that when a representative of the MINING RECORD visited Rossland last December to obtain information for a review of mining in 1903 he found that the tonnage statistics then being supplied to the Press showed the output of local mines to be about 50,000 tons more for the year to date than the actual production had been. The Rossland Board of Trade, therefore, need not be surprised to find journals that regard general accuracy as essential challenge glaringly-inaccurate published statements, such as those above noted. Reverting to the report—the statistical tables embodied in it supply some interesting and useful information, showing (1) approximate output of each producing mine during ten years, the total output for that period appearing as 1,617,259 tons having a gross value of \$25,436,525; (2) comparative yearly output, giving total tonnage and value for each year from 1894 to 1903, both inclusive; (3) details of output for 1903, including production, and gold, silver and copper contents of ore, respectively, of individual mines working; (4) statement, in lineal feet, of development work done in each mine during 1903, viz., 31,480 feet, and (5) number of men, which was 1,041, employed in the principal mines. Another table is the Associated Boards of Trade's estimated value of mineral produced in Southern Kootenay and Southern Yale in 1903. As the figures contained in the latter have been widely published it may be of interest to quote them, and as well the official figures, taken from the Minister of Mines' Report. These follow, those in parentheses being the official revised figures: Gold, \$4,219,718 (\$4,492,448); silver, \$1,839,953 (\$1,210,311); copper, \$3,332,175 (\$3,637,877); lead, \$489,793 (\$646,114); total, \$9,881,639 (\$9,986,750). It will be observed that whilst there are considerable differences between the values of individual metals, there is only about \$105,000 variation between the totals. The Rossland Board of Trade has done the mining industry a service by having printed and distributed a pamphlet containing much statistical information relating to the development and production of mines in the Rossland district. Having an output officially valued at more than four and a quarter millions of dollars, it is well that much publicity be given to that important fact.

The cablegram sent by Mr. J. H. Mackenzie, acting General Manager to the London office of the Le Roi Company, making the extraordinary statement that in consequence of faulty sampling and assaying recent shipments of Le Roi ore had been over-valued to the amount of \$335,000, has naturally caused much consternation not unmingled with indignation both in England and in this country. To us it appears incredible that such a serious and inexcusable blunder as that alleged should have been made and remained undetected for so long a period as claimed. Thus if the sampling and assaying at the mine were at fault, and this was known at the company's smelter, it is certainly strange that prompt action was, apparently, not taken to remedy the grave error. Another rather remarkable circumstance is that this is the second occasion on which it has been alleged that Le Roi shipments have been grossly over-valued. Mr. Frecheville, sent out by the London directors some two years ago to report on the mine, attributed, it will be remembered, a similar error to the then general manager, Mr. Bernard McDonald. Mr. Mackenzie, who, by-the-way, was appointed by Mr. Frecheville, and had charge of the mine for several months prior to Mr. Parrish's engagement, now claims to have discovered a like condition of affairs. This is a very damaging allegation in respect to both the financial position of the company and the competence of Mr. Parrish, its manager. Meanwhile the over-valuing, having as alleged, covered a period of several months, it is singular that so wide a discrepancy between the values in the ore as shown by sampling at the mine and those actually recovered at the smelter,—at any rate during the first half of the period referred to, was not detected by the London Board, which presumably receives fully detailed returns from both mine and smelter. Without Mr. Parrish's explanation of the position it is impossible to express an impartial opinion as to whether or not Mr. Mackenzie's statement is the correct one, but the latter gentleman before assuming the heavy responsibility of cabling the information he did to London must assuredly have thoroughly satisfied himself in his own mind that the facts were as set out in his message. It may not be out of place to make reference here to the excellent work done by Mr. Parrish since he undertook the management of the Le Roi. The condition in which he found the mine upon taking charge was not a satisfactory one, for, it is understood, all the higher grade ore in sight, had been removed from the mine by reason of financial exigencies which demanded that such a policy should then be followed. Mr. Parrish was called upon to practically rehabilitate the property, and despite the present disconcerting reports, there can be no doubt that the position and value of the Le Roi has been materially improved during the past twelve months.

Since the above was written our Rossland contemporary, the *Miner*, has published the following:

"During the early part of the present year the management of the Le Roi announced substantial profits. The public was thus led to believe that