

ing sections of the province, gathering facts and figures so as to be able to present as complete and reliable a statement as possible. The time available, however, proved too short to admit of the completion of the work before the end of December, hence this delay in the issue of the *MINING RECORD*. While lacking in some respects, the information given in the following pages will, on the whole, convey an idea of the progress made in 1905, but it will be an inadequate one. Yet one prominent fact is brought out, viz., that the mineral production of 1905 was the largest of any year in the history of mining in the province. This may be regarded as a positive statement, and as one that may be relied on as correct, as will most assuredly be proved by the official statistics when they shall have been collected and made public. No haphazard guesses have been made in arriving at the estimate of production presented in the tables given elsewhere. In the case of some of the most important of the producing sections actual production has been definitely ascertained so far as quantities are concerned, while values have been based on general average yields of the year immediately preceding. Wherever such particulars were not obtainable estimates have been made after careful consideration of the conditions that have obtained during the year in individual cases, and, as far as practicable, consultation with those best informed as to the position. The result arrived at is, therefore, an honest presentation of what is believed to be the value of the mineral production for the year, calculated at prices shown in one of the articles dealing therewith. It is true that the considerable increase over 1904 these conclusions show is to a large extent the result of higher average prices for metals than ruled in 1904, but apart from this there has been a decided increase in tonnage in 1905, as will be recognised if comparison be made with the quantities of metals produced in 1904. The whole position may be briefly summed up in a few short sentences. There was much development work done in the mines. Modern plant and machinery were installed at mines and smelters. Operating costs were reduced. New reduction processes were successfully adopted. Production of ore was considerably increased. More transportation facilities were provided. These and other factors combined to bring about substantial progress, and, in not a few cases, profitable results. The outcome of all these favourable conditions is the establishment of confidence in the mining industry of the province to an extent not experienced for years, and this confidence has induced, and is continuing to induce, an expenditure on further development and additional equipment that augurs well for even greater and more successful results in 1906. With a reasonable prospect of the prices of metals continuing to be such as will leave a good margin of profit on the year's mining operations, there appears to be good reason to look forward with confident expectation to the ensuing year witnessing a still further advance in the total value of mineral production.

Several of the newspapers of the Kootenay and Boundary districts issued special numbers at the close of the old or beginning of the new year. Those we have received are the Special Mining Review of the *Nelson Daily News*, the *Cranbrook Herald Annual*, and the Holiday Number of the *Phoenix Pioneer*. Since, with the exception of specially contributed articles on lead and zinc, practically the whole of the mining information in that number was prepared by the editor of the *MINING RECORD*, modesty prevents our expressing an opinion as to its merits, but we may be permitted to mention that the enterprise of the proprietor of the *Daily News* in issuing a 20-page special number has been freely commended by the provincial press, and the comprehensive review of the mining industry of the province generally characterised as a valuable advertisement of the extensive mineral resources of British Columbia. The summary of other industries of the Kootenay has been favourably mentioned as well. The *Cranbrook Herald Annual* is also a creditable publication, containing many pages of information. While the varied resources and industries of East Kootenay are given particular prominence, a wider field is covered by some of the articles, the whole constituting a valuable and attractive advertisement for the East Kootenay district in particular and the province in general. The Annual Holiday Number of the *Phoenix Pioneer* comprises an exhaustive and carefully prepared description of the industries of the Boundary district, which produces more copper than any other section of the Dominion of Canada. The full accounts given of the enterprises of the several large mining and smelting companies operating in the Boundary, the descriptions of their mines and smelting works, and the record of the operations from the time of the inception of their respective undertakings up to the present, constitute a compendium of information that will be valued by many stockholders and others interested in the big copper mines and smelters of the Boundary, with their unusually favourable record of low-cost mining and smelting. There is beside much information relative to smaller copper properties, the high-grade silver-gold mines of the district, electric power undertakings, railways, descriptions of the Boundary towns, etc. Altogether the number is one that the editor of the *Phoenix Pioneer* may well feel proud of, the more so since it is one that will be generally kept for reference purposes by those requiring full and accurate information relative to the Boundary. Just a few words, in conclusion, concerning two other publications. The *Grand Forks Gazette*, published late in December, together with valuable information concerning the agricultural resources of the Kettle River Valley, a history of the Granby Con. M. S. & P. Co., containing useful and authentic information of that organisation and its operations. The other special issue is that of the *Anaconda News*, published at Anaconda near Greenwood. The ordinary issues of the *News* are unpretentious, but this special issue contains brief but interesting descriptions of mines and smelters in the Boundary, and is a number that is a credit to its youthful editor and proprietor, Master Robert Keffer.