

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Official Figures Show Steady Expansion—Coal Mining Returns Are Large.

The aggregate value of all mining in British Columbia at the end of 1910 amounted to \$374,197,650, which shows an increase in ten years of \$222,042,442, or about 146 per cent. over that at the close of 1900 (\$152,155,208). Comparing 1905 (248,663,176) with 1900, the increase in five years was \$96,507,968, or about 63.5 per cent., while the five-year period, 1905-1910, gave an increase of \$125,534,474, or nearly 51 per cent., the aggregates at the end of 1905 and 1910, respectively, having been as shown above.

The quantity of lode gold during 1910 was the largest produced in any year by 12,119 ozs., the largest previous production having been in 1908, 255,582 ozs., as against 267,701 ozs. for 1910.

The net production of coal, 2,777,495 tons, for 1910, shows also a comparatively large increase of 793,579 long tons. Other materials—that is, non-metallic minerals, practically all for building purposes, are credited with a 25 per cent. increase. It is most likely these have been underestimated in quite recent years until 1910, for there has been a steadily enlarging use of materials in building and road and footpath construction in the larger cities of the coast district during several years, and this is continuing in larger degree than in the past.

Comments of Provincial Mineralogist.

Mr. William Fleet Robertson, the provincial mineralogist in commenting on the subject, says: "The value of mineral products in British Columbia for the year 1910 amounts to \$26,377,066, which is considerably greater than that of any previous year. The tonnage of ore mined in the lode mines during the year was 2,216,428 tons, an increase over that of the preceding year of 158,715 tons, or 7.7 per cent., and it might also be stated that this is the largest tonnage for any year since the commencement of lode mining in British Columbia."

"This year for the first time in many years, the Coast district has the honor of first place on the list, followed in order of importance by the Boundary and East Kootenay districts, while West Kootenay, for many years the greatest producer of mineral in the province, is relegated to fourth place. The Coast and East Kootenay districts owe considerable percentage of their output to the coal mines situated within their limits, whereas in the other districts the production is almost entirely from metal mining. The total tonnage of ore was produced by the several districts in the following proportions: Boundary, 76.75 per cent.; Rossland (Trail Creek division), 11.35 per cent.; Fort Steele Division (East Kootenay), 5.22 per cent.; Coast, 1.90 per cent.; others, 4.7 per cent."

Copper Mining is Lucrative.

Mr. E. Jacobs, of Victoria, B.C., says: "An analysis of British Columbia's mining activity during 1910 shows that there were 713 tons of ore mined a year for each man employed about the mines. In this respect, however, the districts vary very materially, since, in the Slokan, the figures show 148 tons mined to the man in a year; in Nelson district 142 tons; in Trail Creek 385 tons, and in the Boundary 1,472 tons mined to the man employed."

But copper mining is equally lucrative in this province, as will be seen from the following table, furnished by the British Columbia Copper Company, which in June alone produced 816,676 pounds of copper, against 407,040 pounds for the same month of the year previous. For the six months ended June 30, 1911, the company produced 5,144,365 pounds of copper, as compared with 2,978,227 pounds in the corresponding period of last year.

Production in detail for six months of 1911 and 1910 follows:

	1911.		
	Copper	Silver	Gold
January	827,272	9,545	2,376
February	767,470	8,384	2,014
March	804,542	9,690	2,711
April	952,284	13,630	3,127
May	976,121	12,763	2,880
June	816,676	11,742	2,428
Total	5,144,365	65,594	15,537

	1910.		
	Copper	Silver	Gold
January	656,473	7,530	2,513
February	683,234	7,627	2,560
March	891,419	9,191	2,623
April	340,061	3,611	126

May	497,040	5,221	1,550
June	497,040	5,221	1,550
Total	2,978,227	33,686	9,372

That the mining operations are going on unabated may be gleaned from the following returns of the output of the mines and smelters of the Boundary district alone for the week ending August 19:

Granby	585,672
Mother Lode	193,689
Jack Pot	19,290
Rawhide	136,153
Athelstan	4,081
Napoleon	7,080
Others	1,859
Total	947,804

PRESIDENT TAFT AND RECIPROCITY.

This is from the speech of President Taft at the joint banquet of the Associated Press and the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, held in New York on April 27, 1911:

"I have said that this was a critical time in the solution of the question of reciprocity. It is critical because, unless it is now decided favorably to reciprocity, it is exceedingly probable that no such opportunity will ever again come to the United States. The forces which are at work in England and in Canada to separate her by a Chinese wall from the United States, and to make her part of an imperial commercial band reaching from England around the world to England again by a system of preferential tariffs, will derive an impetus from the rejection of this treaty, and if we would have reciprocity with all the advantages that I have described, and that I earnestly and sincerely believe will follow its adoption, we must take it now, or give it up forever. The bond uniting the Dominion with the Mother Country is light and almost imperceptible."

Here is an extract from President Taft's message to Congress with the Reciprocity Agreement, January 26th, 1910: "Ought we not then to arrange a commercial agreement with Canada, if we can, by which we shall have direct access to her great supply of natural products without an obstructing or prohibitory tariff? . . . The Dominion has prospered. It has an active, aggressive and intelligent people. They are coming to the parting of the ways. . . . 'Should we not now, therefore, before their policy has become too crystallized and fixed for change, meet them in a spirit of real concession, facilitate commerce between the two countries, and thus greatly increase the natural resources available to our people?'"

Soap
Furs
Milk
Shoes
Bread
Cereals
Carbide
Fisheries
Explosives
Flour Mills
Lumber Mills
Chewing Gum
Car Foundries
Cement Plants
Canning Plants
Quebec Breweries
Carriage Factories
Fishing Companies
Bolt and Nut Plants
Steel and Coal Plants
Navigation Companies
Light, Heat and Power Plants

MERGERS DAY BY DAY