

The Amalgamated McKee Creek Mining Company is stated to have hydraulicked at a lower cost than in previous seasons and made excellent profits. Its total clean-up is placed at about \$32,000. The Societe Miniere, operating on Boulder Creek, is said to have taken out approximately \$35,000 and to have had a profitable season.

On Spruce Creek the Spruce Creek Power Company is stated to be only in the preliminary stages of its work and so at a disadvantage, consequently its season's operations will not have been profitable. The Columbia Hydraulic Mining Company at the upper end of the creek had its property seized under a debenture mortgage, so it is out of business. The Northern Mines property is in the hands of a receiver, not having capital enough to go on. Practically the whole of Spruce, which is a valuable creek, is under option expiring next October.

The two Ruffner companies—Pine Creek Power and North Columbia—owning adjoining properties, have been worked conjointly and moved an enormous quantity of gravel last season and took out more gold than in any previous year—\$72,000, so it is stated. The water question on Pine Creek appears to at last have been solved. The Ruffner companies have built a dam at the outlet of Surprise Lake and their water supply plans have been approved by the public works department. It is estimated that a supply of about 5,000 in. per day for the whole season has been provided for.

Other noteworthy results obtained in Cassiar last year were at the Berry Creek Mining Company's hydraulic property in the northern part of the district. This company completed its water supply system and was able to wash gravel for 109 24-hour days, recovering gold to the value of \$21,750. Much top dirt had to be hydraulicked first, so this result is not regarded as a fair demonstration of what the property will produce when opened up. In one pit an average of \$475 per diem was obtained during a run of 20 days.

EAST KOOTENAY.

Both coal and lead-silver ore in the Fort Steele division of this district contributed largely to the year's total mineral production. Unfortunately labour troubles prevented a similar large output to that of the three quarters to September 30 from being maintained throughout the year.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's average monthly gross production of coal during nine months of the year was nearly 80,000 tons as compared with 69,000 tons per month in 1905. The average monthly production of coke for the same period was about 21,400 tons, which was a slightly lower average than was maintained in 1905. The strike interfered with production to such an extent during the last quarter that the whole year's gross output of coal did not exceed 800,000 short tons, while the quantity of coke made was about 220,000 tons. The company's big steel trestle and tipples at its Coal Creek colliery was completed and proved equal to the requirements of a

much larger daily output than it was found practicable to maintain.

The St. Eugene milled during the first six months of the year 84,066 tons of ore, producing 14,008 tons of concentrates which, together with 1,489 tons of crude ore, were shipped to the smelter. From this product there was extracted about 418,000 oz. silver and 17,300,000 lb. of lead; total value, \$798,660. The output of the second half of the year was somewhere about 2,000 tons of crude ore and 11,000 tons of concentrates. The mine is reported to be in better condition than ever before, developments disclosing the occurrence of big shoots of ore not previously met with, and with large ore reserves.

The Sullivan group mine sent between 25,000 and 30,000 tons of lead-silver ore to the smelter at Marysville during 1906. Its actual output during the company's fiscal year was reported at the annual meeting held in September to have been 26,997 tons containing 21.14 per cent lead (wet assay) and 9.015 oz. silver per ton. The manager reported in sight in the 60-ft. north drift 40,000 tons of ore, with indications that this will be augmented from 40,000 to 50,000 tons. There was in addition some 25,000 tons of ore carrying 18 to 20 per cent zinc and 12.5 per cent lead for which it was hoped a market will yet be found. An operating profit of \$138,404 for the fiscal year was shown.

An important discovery of ore at the Stemwinder, near the North Star was reported and a company was formed to work this property. The North Star shipped nearly 4,000 tons of ore during the year.

Placer mining operations in Fort Steele division were not large. Returns are not yet in, but the gold recovered will probably reach a total between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

In northeast Kootenay operations were resumed on the Ptarmigan and Paradise mines, both of which made small shipments of ore to the smelter. In the Golden division the Laborers' Co-operative company continued at work, but as yet its properties are not shipping ore in quantity.

WEST KOOTENAY.

In several parts of this big district mining was active in 1906. In other camps there was also progress though not to a similar extent.

AINSWORTH.

Ainsworth, the oldest camp in this district, took on new life during the year, the finding of ore running high in silver in the Krao mine attracting much attention and encouraging owners of other properties to either again work them or conclude arrangements for working on lease. The sale of the Krao to mining men of Butte, Montana, and the organizing of a company in that city to work the mine, are among the more prominent events of the year in connection with this camp. A contract was let recently for the extension a further distance of 1,000 ft. of the Highlander long tunnel. In other parts of Ainsworth mining division developments were in several in-