

don and placed them on exhibition in one of the public thoroughfares in the Strand. From information vouchsafed to us formally and in formally, we find that the little exhibit of minerals has caused quite a little excitement, and the enquiries that have been made have given Mr. Clarke a great deal more work than he anticipated. At no time during the day has the shop window, in which they were exhibited, been devoid of its little group of spectators, and British Columbia in general, and Kamloops in particular, has been brought before a large number of the British public in a manner that will make a far deeper impression than any amount of puff literature. This only goes to show that immense good might be done if a perpetual exhibition of British Columbia minerals and other products was held on some more important thoroughfare, with a proper supply of clerks' literature to enable the public to get further information that is so necessary. This, of course, would cost more than the present system, but the results would more than justify the increased expenditure.

Mines & Mining

COPPER IN 1899.

Although the increase in the production of copper was only a moderate one, the enlargement in consumption was very great. There was no accumulation of stocks by any producer or dealer during the year, so that the increase in production doubled with the decrease in

exports indicates that some 35,000 tons of copper were added to our domestic supply in 1899, and that the consumption in that year was greater than in 1898, by this very large quantity. This is not to be wondered at when we consider the extreme activity in construction work of all kinds, in which copper and its alloys are used; and especially the very large amount of electrical work—railroad, power transmission, lighting etc.—which has been constructed during the year.

When a rise in prices began early in the year, a large number of new companies were organized to work new tracts in the Lake Superior Copper Region, and several old mines were revived, re-incorporated and development work begun. None of these concerns, however, can be yet ranked as producers, as is well it takes three years and an expenditure of \$750,000 to make a mine in the Lake Superior District.

Canada shews a considerable gain in 1899, principally from the B. C. mines. In 1900 it appears probable that the increase will be still greater, as preparation has been made for working and smelting on a very considerable scale the copper ores of the Boundary District as well as those in the West Kootenay division.

It has often been urged that whenever a product like copper rises too high in values it will have two effects, to stimulate production and curtail consumption; and while this will, in general, always remain true, additional facts will arise, which, to a certain extent, will upset standard rules. An increase in the copper production can only come about slowly and existing large producing