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TO attempt within the limits of one article a general review of mining progress in British Columbia during the past year is not an easy task, chiefly by reason of the size of the territory to be covered and variety of interests embraced. Nor is it rendered

easier by the almost complete absence of reliable statistics. This latter is a very serious matter. No

THE PROGRESS OF MINING IN B.C. DURING 1899. doubt the Department of Mines publishes them too late. There should

be a monthly return made and published and its publication should take place no later than thirty days after the month with which it deals. The Province should not wait till March or April to take stock for the previous year. In endeavouring to form some estimate of progress during 1899, it is necessary first to exclude two sources of gold supply, namely placer mines and hydraulic mines. The output from these sources is increasing at a rapid rate, but to what extent is hardly ascertainable; \$400,000 is accounted for from the Atlin district, representing probably 50 or 60 per cent. of the total output; how much has come out of Cariboo during the past year; what progress the various hydraulic companies are making there? These are things regarding which the desire for accurate and reliable information is not

likely to be satisfied for some time yet. Even in dealing with lode mining throughout the Province, information concerning which is more readily available, we are face to face with serious difficulty in presenting an accurate resume of the year's operations. The districts in which lode mining is being carried on throughout the Province might be divided according to the nature of their product into silver-lead, gold-copper and free milling quartz camps. But it will be easier and serve the purpose better if they are divided rather according to their standing as productive districts. A broad and easy distinction may be made between districts in which production has been going on for some years and districts hitherto only spasmodically, or not at all productive. The unproductive districts lend themselves again to another distinction between districts in which development has been going on for some years without great results so far, on account of transportation or other difficulties, and new districts. No apology is necessary for dealing with the Rossland district as first among the productive localities in the Province—1899 has been a year of progressive development in the Rossland mines. It is true that the amount of ore treated has increased from 111,000 tons to over 180,000 tons; but in spite of this remarkable increase, all of which may be credited to the last nine months of the year, the shipment of ore has been given a secondary place to the development of the mines. But that development has been attended with, on the whole, most satisfactory results. The ore reserves in the Rossland camp are incomparably greater than they were a year ago, and in the West Le Roi a new mine has been added to the resources. Equally important as a correlative factor in the prosperity of the camp has been the great decrease in the cost of ore treatment. This has brought bodies of ore within the commercial horizon which may without exaggeration be termed vast, and has given an impetus to the development of numerous prospects, while it has also led to the resumption of shipments from some of the lower grade mines. Although the year closes amid depressing external circumstances the internal condition of the Rossland camp is a sure guarantee of continued and increasing prosperity.

The Nelson district has presented some most interesting features during the year. Productive quartz mines have sprung up all over the district, and next year the output should approximate at least \$200,000 from this sources alone. This is the more encouraging as the latent resources of this district have long lain dormant with the exception of the ill-fated and mismanaged Silver King. The district now counts among its productive mines the Molly Gibson, Athabasca, Granite, Poor-