

MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1915

By E. Jacobs.

The mining industry of British Columbia showed improvement in 1915 over results obtained in 1914. An estimate of total value of the mineral production of 1915 places the amount at \$29,979,000, as compared with \$26,388,825, which was the revised total on official record of the value of the production of 1914. The increase in value, therefore, appears to have been \$3,490,175. However, since there were differences in average prices of some of the metals, this does not show the actual position, which is better indicated in the table that follows, giving the estimated quantities of minerals produced (save only as to miscellaneous products) and exhibiting the year's changes in totals of production of individual minerals.

Estimated Mineral Production of British Columbia in 1915.

Mineral.	Quantity.	Increase or Decrease over 1914.
Gold, placer	oz. 34,500	I. 6,250
Gold, lode	oz. 257,690	I. 10,520
Silver	oz. 3,670,144	I. 67,964
Lead	lb. 45,306,000	D. 5,319,043
Copper	lb. 57,382,294	I. 2,372,595
Zinc	lb. 11,940,000	I. 4,073,533
Coal	tons, 2240 lb. 1,552,000	D. 258,967
Coke	tons, 2240 lb. 248,424	I. 13,827
Miscellaneous products	\$2,000,000	D. \$ 852,917

As the year 1914 was not an ordinary one, for the reason that war conditions brought about the closing in August of many metalliferous mines, some of which were operated during the greater part of 1915, the comparison of results obtained in those years respectively, is hardly a fair one. On the other hand the general position was much more favorable in 1913, so that comparison with that year's production would also be on inequitable basis, in this case against 1915. Yet, this notwithstanding, the following changes in 1915 as compared with 1913 may be stated. Placer gold I. 9000 oz.; lode gold, D. 14,564 oz.; silver, I. 204,288 oz.; lead, D. 10,058,677 lb.; copper, I. 10,921,989 lb.; zinc, I. 5,181,232 lb.; coal, D. 585,483 tons; coke, D. 37,621 tons; miscellaneous products, D. \$1,198,100. While these figures show that there were several large decreases, there were substantial increases in other minerals that in point of money value went far to compensate for the decreases, so that, on the whole, last year does not suffer very much by this second comparison.

Gold. Of the total of 34,500 oz. of placer gold from the whole province, the proportion credited to Cariboo district is 13,750 oz. and that to Cassiar district 18,500 oz., of which latter 17,000 oz. is estimated as Atlin's share and 1500 oz. that of Liard and Stikine divisions of Cassiar. Of the remaining 2250 oz., the apportionment is 500 oz. to Fort Steele division of East Kootenay; 400 oz. each to Omineca and Similkameen; 250 oz. each to Lillooet and Nelson; and 450 oz. is the total of several smaller producers.

Lode gold came in largest part from Rossland mines, which are estimated to have produced fully 60 per cent. of the province's total of nearly 258,000 oz.; Boundary district mines, excluding Similkameen, came next with a little more than 17 per cent., including about 37,000 oz. from the Granby Co's mines, nearly 4000 oz. from the B.C. Copper Co's mines, and 2600 oz. from the Jewel mine. The Hedley Gold Mining Co's Nickel Plate mine, Similkameen, made its customary annual production of between 38,000 and 40,000 oz. Mines in Nelson division of West

Kootenay yielded between 8000 and 9000 oz. about one-half of which came from the Queen mine, Sheep creek, while the Motherlode, in the same camp, and the Relief, at Erie, added appreciably to the total of this division. From mines near the Pacific coast came fully 10,000 oz., of which nearly one-half was from the Granby Consolidated Co's Hidden Creek mine, near Observatory Inlet, and the remainder chiefly from the Marble Bay mine, Texada Island, the Rocher Deboule Co's copper-gold mine in the Skeena country, and the Engineer gold mine near Atlin.

Silver. Of an estimated total of 3,670,000 oz. of silver for the province, it is thought that between 2,200,000 and 2,300,000 oz. was produced from mines in the Ainsworth-Slocan district of West Kootenay, roughly rather more than 1,900,000 oz. from Slocan mines and than 300,000 oz. from Ainsworth mines. It seems probable that when the revised returns shall be in it will be found that the 1915 production of silver from these mines was larger than that of 1913 notwithstanding that the latter year was free from war and market troubles and too, had the benefit of a higher average price for the year than did 1915. Probably more than 40 per cent. of the Slocan total came from the Standard mine, near Silverton; the Hewitt-Lorna Doone in the same camp was next with an output of several hundred thousand ounces of this metal, and then the Surprise mine near Cody with between 200,000 and 250,000 oz. More than a dozen other mines in Slocan and half a dozen in Slocan City division together contributed to the total output of the district, from a few hundred ounces each from some small mines up to the considerable combined production of the Rambler-Cariboo, Lucky Thought, Slocan Star, Ruth Hope, and Mountain Con.

Of the Ainsworth mines, the Consolidated Co's No.1 is estimated to have produced in excess of 200,000 oz. while the Utica, Cork-Provence, Bluebell, and the Retallack Co's mine together added more than half that quantity, and half-a-dozen others each also yielded silver.

By far the greater part of the 600,000 oz. estimated as the production of East Kootenay mines was from the Consolidated Co's Sullivan mine, while the same company's St. Eugene mine yielded a few thousand ounces and the Monarch near Field, in the northern part of this district did likewise.

Boundary district mines produced a much decreased quantity of silver as compared with other recent years. Their total last year appears to have been less than 300,000 oz. and that notwithstanding that the Granby Co's mines, with a total of about 195,000 oz., did a little better than in 1914. The Union mine, in Franklin camp, probably produced 25,000 oz., but this is a surmise. Other Boundary producers were the E.P.U., Mother Lode, Jewel, and Skylark, all near Greenwood, and the Sally up the west fork of Kettle river.

Next in quantity from one district was Skeena, with about 167,000 oz. from the Granby Co's Hidden Creek mine, 22,000 oz. from the Rocher Deboule Co's mine, and approximately 50,000 oz. from several mines in the neighborhood of New Hazelton.

Rossland mines are estimated to have produced about 156,000 oz., of which nearly 25,000 oz. was from the Le Roi No. 2 company's Josie group and the large remainder from the Consolidated Co's Centre Star and Le Roi groups of mines.

The output of mines in the lower Coast district was about 72,000 oz., of which quantity the Britannia's proportion was 55,000 oz. and that of the Marble Bay mine, on