every ton of ore he possibly could, but would also permit the mining of many ore-bodies which, at the normal price of zinc, could not have been handled at a profit.

One trouble was that there was not enough smelter capacity on this continent to supply the demand for the metal, and these smelters were soon so overstocked with ores that they ceased to accept ore except on outstanding contracts.

The supply of ore brought out by these conditions was so great that such smelters as were equipped to handle it only bought at a very large margin of profit, so that the zinc-miner did not make as great profits as the increased market price of the metal would seem to indicate.

Of the total output of 13,817,808 lb., about 8,822,880 lb. came from the Slocan District, 3,127,209 lb. from Nelson Division, 1,376,000 lb. from Ainsworth Division, and 491,719 lb. from East Kootenay.

The largest producer in the Province was the *Standard*, in Slocan Division, which is credited with 3,778,857 lb., followed by the *H.B.*, in Nelson Division, with 2,387,514 lb., and the Silverton Mines, Slocan, with 1,385,859 lb.; while the *Zincton* mine, in Nelson District, produced 739,095 lb.; the *Silver Hoard*, in Ainsworth, 600,000 lb.; the *Lucky Jim*, in Slocan, 640,000 lb.; and the *Rambler-Cariboo*, 540,660 lb.

A description of the electrolitic zinc plant, which is now under construction at Trail, will be found in the notes on the Trail Creek Mining Division.

Other Minerals.

No iron ore has been used or shipped from the Province during the past year, and, as far as can be learned, but little prospecting or development work has been done on iron claims.

A small quantity of crude placer platinum has been recovered on the Tulameen river, in the Similkameen District, estimated at about $2,000 in value. This was obtained from placer-gold workings being carried on, and the results are considered encouraging.

Prospecting for petroleum by means of boreholes has been in progress in South-East Kootenay, on the Queen Charlotte islands, and elsewhere, but oil in commercial quantities has not yet been encountered.

Considerable interest has been evinced during the past year in molybdenite deposits, owing to the high price of this mineral, caused by demands for war purposes. This mineral, which is a sulphide of molybdenum, is used in the manufacture of special high-grade steel for guns. The actual output of molybdenite during the year was confined to a shipment from the *Molly* group, on Lost creek, in the Nelson Mining Division, which was sent to the Henry E. Woods Ore Concentrating Company, Denver, Colorado; this shipment amounted to 24 tons and contained by assay 12.26 per cent. of molybdenite. Some development-work was done on the property and it is now under lease and bond to a Vancouver syndicate, which intends to erect in the spring a small concentrator. The market requirements are such that a molybdenite ore must be concentrated up to 85 or 90 per cent. molybdenite (MoS_2) before it is marketable. The Lost Creek property has several thousand tons of from 2 to 4 per cent. ore, so that, with a suitable mill, a small production could be maintained.

Another property, on Alice arm, in the Skeena Mining Division, controlled by J. D. Ross, of Seattle, is reported to have a large showing of molybdenite, and it is said that a mill is being erected on it which will soon be producing a ton a day of high-grade concentrates. Other prospects in the Nelson, Kamloops, and Lillooet Mining Divisions showing some molybdenite have been investigated, but as yet none of them have assumed any great importance.

Molybdenite ore, concentrated so as to contain 85 to 90 per cent. of that mineral, is now worth from $2,500 to $3,000 a ton, delivered in England or New York.

Antimony is another metal which greatly advanced in price owing to demands for war purposes. Its principal use in war material is to harden the lead bullets