

the "Boundary," which has been rendered possible by the material reduction made in the actual costs of smelting, which are authoritatively stated as having been reduced as low as \$1.35 to \$1.50 per ton, of ore. This low possible cost of the first smelting, now proven, has a wide effect on the future of the district and Province, as it brings within the limit of profitable ores many known deposits of great extent which it has been previously regarded as impossible to profitably treat.

## IRON ORE.

It has to be recorded that, as yet, very little iron ore as such has been mined in the Province. There have been a few experimental shipments made and a considerable amount of development work carried on, but from the very nature of things iron ore to be handled at all necessitates an iron blast furnace to treat it, which is, as yet, not an accomplished fact in British Columbia, and will not be until a sufficient development has been done to fully establish both the quantity and quality of ore supply to justify its erection.

The statistics show that 5,746 tons of ore were shipped, which, as before stated, were used for experimental purposes, or as a flux in smelting other ores.

## OTHER MINERALS.

## PLATINUM.

There has been a small quantity of platinum produced this year, about \$457 worth, from the Similkameen District. This small output is occasioned by the fact that comparatively little placer gold mining has been going on in this district of late, and as the platinum is recovered with the placer gold, little has been produced. This metal has been again noted in the neighbourhood of Dease Lake and on the Thompson River in the placer workings, but no record has been obtainable of any quantity having been saved.

## BUILDING MATERIALS.

No reliable returns are available as to the production of the various building materials, including lime, brick, fire-clay, building stone, cement and tile pipes, and the amount credited to these materials in the statistics has been estimated—the estimate erring on the conservative side.

Lime and brick are produced locally in almost every district for home consumption, while on the coast an excellent lime, which has considerable sale abroad, is made from a marble. On the coast, too, a cement of very good quality is made and supplies much of the local market. On Kootenay Lake a coarsely crystalline marble quarry is being worked for building purposes. There are on the coast several first-class granite and sandstone quarries opened and doing a local trade. These quarries are so admirably situated as regards water transportation that there is a fair prospect of their becoming an important export industry. Fire-brick drain pipes and tile are manufactured on Vancouver Island for home consumption.

## MINING RETURNS AND STATISTICS.

## ROSSLAND.

ORE shipments from the Rossland District for the seven months ending July 31 aggregate approximately 190,000 tons. Returns to July 19th were as follows:

Le Roi	129,336
Le Roi No. 2	37,107
Centre Star	4,310
War Eagle	420
Rossland G. W.	2,400
Giant	750
Cascade	300
Columbia-Kootenay	30
Bonanza	00
Velvet	250
Spitzee	20
Total	179,376

## BOUNDARY DISTRICT.

The following table summarises ore production from this district for the seven months ending July 26th:

Phoenix—	
Granby Mines	190,364
Snowshoe	2,942

Deadwood—	
Mother Lodge	70,032
Sunset	4,520
Summit—	
B. C. Mine	2,718
Emma	385
Wellington—	
Winnipeg	785
Golden Crown	625
Central—	
No. 7 Mine	482
Long Lake—	
Jewel	1,912
Total tons	275,465
Granby Smelter treatment, tons	172,719

## SLOCAN.

Ore shipments from January 1st to July 29th have, according to a table prepared by the New Denver Ledger, been divided as follows:

Payne	Tons.
Ivanhoe	630
Sunset (Jackson Basin)	295
Reco	661
American Boy	322
Arlington	556
Hewett	2,200
Bosun	700
Last Chance	670
Wonderful	150
Enterprise	151
Lavina	860
Bismarck	85
Queen Bess	22
Silver Glance	160
Whitewater	37
Ottawa	2,493
Slocan Boy	8
Neepawa	44
Hartney	81
Marion	25
May	80
Paystreak	5
Surprise	7
Monitor (for June)	22
Slocan Star	645
Duplex	528
Emily Edith	7
Wakefield	20
Prescott	40
Rambler	4
Molly Gibson (since last report)	2,384
Washington	1,500
Folliott	30
C. O. D.	2
London Hill	15
Ruth	166
Total tons	16,084

The Slocan Drill publishes the following returns of tonnage output from the Slocan City Division to July 26th:

Arlington	Tons.
Enterprise	2,360
Ottawa	1,060
Neepawa	7
May	81
Paystreak	5
Duplex	5
Fourth of July	7
	11
	3,536

## YUKON.

The following statement represents the business done in the Gold Commissioner's office during the month of June: Miners' licenses issued, 630; claims renewed, 314; original locations, of which several were discoveries, 190; transfers, 1,316, which is the banner month's work of the office; water grants, 7; original quartz locations, 92; renewals, 69; quartz claims renewed on cash payment (\$100), 11; quartz transfers, 80.