

First the destruction early in the year of a large part of San Francisco, which cut off from the Vancouver Island collieries what had long been their chief market for coal, and next the recent labour troubles at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's collieries, which were closed for two months and not operating to their former full capacity the following month, prevented the production of these fuels from showing a much larger increase. During the latter part of the year there has been, though, a distinct improvement in the demand for coal and coke, but the Island collieries could not get sufficient men to admit of their keeping pace with it. Coal and coke from Western Alberta in large measure kept West Kootenay and Boundary mines and smelters supplied during the strike, so that the stoppage of supply from Southeast Kootenay coal mines was not felt to so great an extent as would otherwise have been the case. Preparations are being made to mine coal in the Nicola district, which has lately been given railway communication.

A SUMMARY REVIEW OF MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1906.

In presenting the following summary review the purpose is to convey an idea of the general character of the progress made and to thereby make it clear that the mining industry is developing along lines big with promise of permanent and profitable results. With operations spread over so large an area, and with nearly every individual branch of the industry exhibiting a healthy growth, there should be no doubt as to the lasting benefit to be derived by the Province as a whole from the turning to profitable account of so great a staple resource as the mineral wealth occurring so abundantly in British Columbia. And if a plain statement of facts will carry conviction, the following information, supplemented by statistics appearing on other pages of this issue, should convince those who read it that the mining industry of British Columbia is indeed an important one and is assisting materially to bring prosperity and increased population to the Province.

Taking the districts in the order usually followed in official publications, some of the chief features of mining are noted below:

CARIBOO.

In the Quesnel division of Cariboo district the most important event of the year was the transfer of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company's big hydraulic placer gold property to the Guggenheim interests, of New York, and the inauguration of works long ago recommended by John B. Hobson, who had for years directed the old company's mining operations. The property was transferred to a company incorporated early in the year under the name of the Cariboo Gold Mining Company, of Wilmington, Delaware, U. S. A., having an

authorized capital of \$1,000,000, and for which Mr. Hobson is attorney in British Columbia and resident manager. Included in the provision being made to secure an additional water supply for washing the large quantity of gold-bearing gravel owned, is the construction of a canal from Spanish Lake to Bullion, about 17 miles. A second company has been incorporated to work other gravel beds, this being known as the Bullion Hydraulic Mining Company.

In the Cariboo mining division, the deep drifting enterprise of the Cariboo Consolidated, Ltd., made satisfactory progress, the great flow of water from the ancient channel its workings tap having been partly overcome and some gravel washed. The gold recovered during two or three months paid operating expenses.

The Slough Creek, Ltd., installed at its deep-drift mine a direct-acting winding engine, 16 by 36 and having a 7-ft. drum. It is intended to use this for bailing water, running two 500-gal. skips in balance. A water lodgment for about 60,000 gal. was excavated underground, and additional drain tunnels were driven. The big pumps were operated the year through without interruption.

Several hydraulic placer mines in this division did well during the year, while the Bear Hydraulic Company nearly completed its dead work and is now in readiness to enter upon production. This company put in an overhead cableway—the first one in the district—for handling big boulders and rocks, and intends installing electric searchlights to enable work to be carried on at night as well as day throughout the gravel-washing season. The water storage dam in course of construction will provide 40 days' water supply at 3,000 in. per day.

CASSIAR.

Atlin, which is the only division of present considerable importance in Cassiar district, is still very much in a transition stage, with the holdings of individual miners gradually being acquired by companies. The year's output of gold will probably be found to have been between \$425,000 and \$450,000.

The Atlin Consolidated Mining Company, supposed to be a Guggenheim enterprise, purchased gravel leases on Pine Creek, on which it installed a 75-ton steam shovel and a system of electrically-operated dump cars for conveying the gravel to the sluice boxes. For the particular ground here worked the steam shovel has proved a decided success. Construction work was sufficiently advanced by August to allow of washing being commenced. It is understood that profitable results were secured, report placing the value of the gold recovered during 41 days' run at \$26,000. The company will probably put in two more steam shovels next season.

Dredging at Atlin has proved a failure. The British America Dredging Company's dredge has been dismantled, and the British Columbia Dredging Company did but a few weeks' dredging.

Water conditions are much better generally at Atlin, and still improving, experience having shown how the water can be used to best advantage.