

Provincial Production of Coal and Coke in 1918

Provincial Mineralogist, Wm. Fleet Robertson, in Annual Report of Minister of Mines for 1918 shows British Columbia yield has increased over previous year—Particulars of production—Fields developed—where coal was marketed.

The gross production of coal in 1918 was 2,578,724 long tons, of which 276,479 tons was made into coke, leaving the net production at 2,302,245 tons. These figures show an increase, as compared with 1917, of 180,009 tons gross and of 152,270 tons net. The quantity of coke made was 188,967 tons, which is an increase of 29,062 tons as compared with 1917. For purposes of comparison the following table is shown:—

	1916	1917	1918
Coal, gross, tons, 2,240 lb.....	2,485,580	2,398,715	2,578,724
Less made into coke tons, 2,240 lb.....	401,487	248,740	276,479

Coal, net, tons, 2,240 lb.....	2,084,093	2,149,975	2,302,245
Coke made, tons, 2,240 lb.....	267,725	159,905	188,967

Summarizing the Provincial production of coal, the following table shows the output:—

	1916	1917	1918
Vancouver Island mines tons, 2,240 lb.....	1,492,761	1,695,721	1,666,211
Nicola and Similkameen mines tons, 2,240 lb.....	110,549	151,234	179,179
Crowsnest Mines tons, 2,240 lb.....	882,270	551,751	732,864
Omineca-Telkwa tons, 2,240 lb.....			470

Total quantity of coal mined tons, 2,240 lb.....	2,485,580	2,398,715	2,578,724
Less made into coke tons, 2,240 lb.....	401,487	248,740	276,479

Net quantity of coal produced tons, 2,240 lb.....	2,084,093	2,149,975	2,302,245
--	-----------	-----------	-----------

In addition to the above net production of coal, there was made the coke production shown in the following table:

	1916	1917	1918
Vancouver Island collieries tons, 2,240 lb.....	27,604	30,406	24,887
Nicola and Similkameen collieries tons, 2,240 lb.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Crowsnest District collieries tons, 2,240 lb.....	240,121	129,499	164,080

Total coke production tons, 2,240 lb.....	267,725	159,905	188,967
--	---------	---------	---------

As will be seen from the above figures, the net coal production this year is 152,270 tons more than it was in 1917, and greater than it has been since 1912.

This output would have been considerably greater had not there been during the year a serious shortage of labour—partly caused by the heavy enlistment of the younger men—and in the early part of the year there were labour troubles that interfered with production. All these contributed to occasion a shortage of both coal and coke when the demand was most keen.

The production of coke in 1918 was 188,967 tons (2,240 lb.), which is 29,062 tons greater than the preceding year. Of this gross coke production, 164,080 tons was made by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company in East Kootenay, and the remaining 24,887 tons was made by the Canadian Collieries at Comox, V. I.

The greater part of the gross Provincial production is still being mined by three companies—the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company of East Kootenay, the Canadian Collieries, and the Western Fuel Company of Vancouver Island, which mined, collectively, 82.7 per cent. of the gross output, their respective production representing 23.6 per cent., 30.7 per cent., and 28.4 per cent of such total.

Of the other collieries: In the Coast District, on Vancouver Island, the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Limited, produced 82,629 tons; the British Columbia Coal Mining Company 14,068 tons; the Nanoose Collieries, Limited, 28,804 tons; and the Granby Company, from a new colliery near Cassidy, produced 16,958 tons. In the Nicola Valley section of the district, the Middlesboro Colliery Company mined 101,559 tons; the Fleming Coal Company 33,203 tons; the Princeton Coal and Land Company 38,673 tons; and the Coalmont Colliery some 5,744 tons of coal.

A new coalfield has been opened up in the Omineca District, where a small colliery is being developed on the Telkwa river that last year shipped 470 tons of coal. For convenience this has been included in the Coast District figures.

In the East Kootenay District, in addition to the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, which produced 608,875 tons, the Corbin Coal and Coke Company produced 123,989 tons.

In addition to those companies actually shipping, several other companies have been installing plant and have approached the shipping stage, mention of which will be made elsewhere in this Report.

The collieries of the Coast District, including the Nicola-Princeton fields, are to be credited this year with about 71.5 per cent. of the total coal-output.

The gross output of the collieries of the Province for the past year was, as already stated 2,578,724 tons, of which 40,902 tons of coal was added to stock.

Of this gross amount, there was sold for consumption in Canada, 1,010,938 tons; sold for consumption in the United States, 752,821 tons; sold in other countries, 58,417 tons; making the total coal sales for the year 1,822,176 tons of 2,240 lb.

In addition to the coal sold, there was used in the manufacture of coke 276,479 tons, and used under companies' boilers, etc., 200,698 tons; while 238,469 tons was lost in washing and screening.

The coke sales of the Province for the past year amounted to 189,680 tons, of which 828 tons was taken from stock.

The following table indicates the markets in which the coal and coke output of the Province was sold:—

Coal	Coast District.	Crowsnest Pass Dist.	Total for Prov.
Sold for consumption in Canada tons, 2,240 lb.....	933,296	77,642	1,010,938
Sold for export to United States tons, 2,240 lb.....	410,603	342,218	752,821
Sold for export to other countries tons, 2,240 lb.....	58,417		58,417
Total coal sales.....	1,402,316	419,860	1,822,176
Sold for consumption in Canada tons, 2,240 lb.....	24,510	147,725	172,276
Sold for export to United States tons, 2,240 lb.....		17,404	17,404
Sold for export to other countries tons, 2,240 lb.....			
Total coke sales	24,510	165,179	189,680

The Collieries of the Coast District, which includes those on Vancouver Island and in the Nicola-Princeton fields, and a small colliery in Telkwa District, mined 1,845,860 tons of coal in 1918, of which 22,845 tons was added to stock, mak-