In comparing the production of 1907 with 1906, there are many things to be taken into consideration. The strike caused a material reduction in shipments, and during the last 3 months of 1907 the drop in the price of silver and the difficulty in selling the ore has resulted in a curtailment of production and shipments. Mine managers are instructed to produce only sufficient ore to meet running expenses and pay dividends. Another factor in the reduction of tonnage is the fact that nearly all the large shippers are either concentrating their ore or have arranged to do so. This will naturally result in a great reduction in tonnage and a corresponding increase in value shipped. There are now six concentrating plants in the camp, either in operation, or well on the road to completion. Two of them are customs concentrators, which will handle the output of the mines not equipped with plants of their own. The total shipments from Cobalt in 1907, were 14,040 tons. La Rose mine heads the list with 2,853 tons, the Coniagas next with 2,399 tons and the Nipissing third with 2,394 tons. There were 25 shippers on the list in 1907, out of which 18 or 19 may be properly classified as shipping mines, which can be counted on as factors in the production of 1908. There are also a number of properties that have good prospects of becoming shippers, and at a conservative estimate there will be at least 25 or 30 shipping mines by 1908.

In 1904 Cobalt produced 158 tons, valued at $136,217; in 1905 Colbalt produced 2,144 tons, valued at $1,473,196; in 1906 Cobalt produced 5,129 tons, valued at $3,900,000.

The shipments for each mine in 1907, are as follows:—

	Ore in lbs.
Buffalo	2,208,820
City of Cobalt	101,280
Coniagas	4,798,710
Cobalt Central	101,360
Colonial	74,250
Drummond	108,920
Foster	611,803
Green Meehan	196,780
Hudson Bay	243,170
Imperial Cobalt	37,530
Kerr Lake	644,800
King Edward (Watts)	62,250
La Rose	5,706,875
Mckinley-Darragh	1,407,935
Nova Scotia	493,000
Nipissing	1,407,935
O'Brien	2,666,360
Red Rock	91,443
Right of Way	258,220
Silver leaf	93,618
Silver Queen	957,157
Trethewey	1,710,438
Townsite	234,278
Temiskaming	430,611
University	61,383

Estimated value, $5,650,000.

ALBERTA.

COLEMAN.—All the mines along the Crow's Nest Pass have been idle for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Although large numbers of men were to be seen in the various camps, things were very quiet. Some of the mines complain that the men are inclined to take a few days longer than the regular holiday, but on the whole the men have reported for work fairly well. The Lille mine, near Frank has not resumed work since the holidays, and the Frank mine of the Canadian-American Coal & Coke Company is also shut down. There is a rumor that trade is dull, but up to the present the real reasons for the shut-down have not been officially announced.

TABER.—The three Boards of Conciliation held in connection with the labor troubles, at the Canada West Coal & Coke Company, the Duggan & Huntrods Company and the Domestic Coal Company, all of Taber, have reported to the Department of Labor, Ottawa.

Judge Stewart, of Calgary, was chairman of all three boards, and the main question at issue were the same in each case. About 250 men were affected. All the points in dispute have been amicably settled between the three companies and the United Mine Workers of America. The companies concede express recognition of the union and accept the check-off system, whereby the union dues are deducted from the workmen's wages and paid over to the union officials. There will be no change in the hours of labor and the companies will pay monthly by cheque.

There is now more trouble brewing at Taber between the Marsh mines and their employees. The men have given notice to terminate their agreement with the company and have asked an increase in wages.

So far no application has been made to have the matter arbitrated under the Lemieux Act, but it is stated that the company intend to apply to the Minister of Labor to have an Arbitration Board convened.

STRATHCONA.—As a result of the Conciliation Board meeting under the Lemieux Act to enquire into the dispute between the Strathcona Coal Company and their employees, the questions in dispute have been amicably settled. The miners will receive an 8-hour day and an increase of wages. The miners who are on contract work and are paid by the car, will now receive renumeration at the rate of about $1.00 per ton for the coal they dig. The Board was composed of T. L. Otter, coal merchant, representing the operators, F. H. Sherman, president of the United Mine Workers, of America, representing the men and G. S. Montgomery, chairman.

EDMONTON.—General Manager M. H. McLeod, of the Canadian Northern Railway, states that there is no shortage of coal in the towns along the line east of Edmonton this winter. The Canadian Northern Railway Company are conducting experiments with a special design of smoke-stack for the use of lignite coal on their locomotives. At present this coal is forbidden by the Railway Commission to be used during the summer months.

These new smoke-stacks are designed with a view to spark prevention, as the lignite coal when burned in a locomotive firebox gives off a great number of sparks, thus constituting a danger of prairie fire on some sections of the line.

It is expected that the Grand Trunk Pacific will have their line to Edmonton in operation next fall, but as this railway will be pushed right on the mountains it is not likely that they will use much of the lignite and semi-bituminous coal from the Edmonton field. As soon as the line is completed to the mountains, they will be in a position to obtain a good supply of high grade steam coal.

It is stated that bituminous coal fields of great extent have been discovered on Bear River, in Northern Cariboo, B.C. These are on the main line of the G.T.P. and are 100 miles north of Barkerville. Twenty claims of 640 acres each have been staked by Joseph Wandle and B. A. Lascelle.

This new coal field may yet prove to be of as much importance as the great Crow's Nest Pass coal field. There is also large coal deposits in the Yellow Head Pass, through which the Grand Trunk line runs when it leaves the prairie country.

CALGARY.—At a public meeting in Calgary the Hon. W. H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works, for the Province of Alberta, stated that in the session of the legislature, which opens in a few weeks time, measures providing for a legal working day of eight hours in coal mines, the payment of indemnities to miners injured in coal mine accidents or, in the event of death, compensation to their dependents, will be introduced. Mr. Cushing said:—