

The copper-mines on Texada Island made a smaller output than in 1914, the *Marble Bay* production being expected to be about two-thirds that of the previous year; the smaller mines did very little.

For the first time in some years, copper ore was shipped from Vancouver Island; this was from the *Willow Grove*, at Sooke, near Victoria, which made an output of 86,000 lb. of copper.

The Trall Creek copper production comes from the mines of the Consolidated Company, and the *Josie* group of the Le Roi No. 2 Company, the ores from which are smelted at Trall. These ores are, in reality, gold ores carrying $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. of recoverable copper and are more valuable for their gold contents. The output this year shows an increase of 836,940 lb., which is accounted for by the increased tonnage treated.

Development-work is always kept well ahead in these mines and a long future life for them is now well established.

The copper production of the Nelson Mining Division has been, in former years, chiefly from the *Silver King* and *Queen Victoria* mines. The former mine was closed during the year, while the latter was only operated for a short time by leasers. About 35,000 lb. of copper was produced, which is also the total for the Division.

Copper-mining is now the most important form of mining in the Province, and this year it practically equalled in value the entire total value of the other lode minerals produced, and exceeded, considerably, the value of the coal and coke production. It forms 40.7 per cent. of the total value of metalliferous mines and 34 per cent. of the total mineral production. In the working of the large, low-grade copper-deposits and the subsequent smelting of the ores produced, a great number of men are employed and a large proportion of the money value is retained in the country in the payment of wages and purchase of supplies.

All the copper ores carry small amounts of the precious metals, and therefore any increase in the copper production also increases the output of gold and silver. The high price of copper during the past year has stimulated prospecting and the development of copper claims, and there is no doubt that the Provincial output will steadily grow in future years.

At the copper-smelters in the Province the only important development was the installation of copper-converters at the Consolidated Company's smelting-works at Trall, which will soon be in operation. Until now the copper matte from Trall has been converted to blister-copper at Tacoma. The question of refining the blister-copper produced in the Province has been considered during the past year by some of the larger companies and also by the Government, and it is possible that a copper-refinery may be established in the near future.

Zinc.

The quantity of zinc shown to have been produced in 1915 amounted to 13,817,808 lb., having a value of \$1,554,503. These figures are so very much higher than have ever before occurred in the zinc production of the Province that comparisons are almost out of the question.

The former highest recorded productions were in 1909, when 8,500,000 lb. of zinc was produced, worth \$400,000, and in 1914, when the production was 7,866,467 lb., valued at \$346,125. It will be seen, therefore, that this year's output has been, in value, about four times as great as that of former record years.

This is one of the instances where the war has been a help, the zinc-mining interests having reaped a harvest that was not expected.

The price of spelter in the New York market averaged, for the year 1913, 5.65 cents a pound; for the year 1914 it averaged 5.21 cents; but for the year 1915 it averaged 13.23 cents; while the average for the month of June, 1915, was 21.2 cents, and for the month of December, 1915, the average price was 15.30 cents.

It can readily be seen that such a very great increase in the market value of the metal would not only serve as a stimulus to the zinc-miner to get to market