The total output of coal for the province, up to the end of 1888, was 4,358,221 tons.

These coals are of cretaceous formations, and they are now admitted to be superior to any other coals on the Pacific Coast.

In addition to the above, we find tertiary deposits scattered throughout the province, both along the coast and in the interior. The tertiary area in British Columbia is estimated to be 12,000 square miles.

Deposits of *iron* also occur in many places in British Columbia. At present, only such as are situated on the coast are available; but, as the country becomes developed, the others will also be valuable. In some cases, they occur as clay ironstone in the coal series; but principally in the form of magnetites. Little attention, as yet, has been devoted to this branch of mining. The only ores being worked are those of Texada Island, which is magnetite of excellent quality. The mines are most favourably situated, either for shipment or smelting, as the Comox coal fields are only about twenty miles distant. The following shipments have been made:—1885, 190 tons; 1886, 3,941 tons; 1887, 1,410 tons; 1888, 7,300 tons. Similar deposits occur elsewhere along the coast, also favourably situated as regards shipment.

As may be seen from the foregoing, the province possesses important mineral deposits in many different localities, and extending over a vast extent of country. It may very reasonably be asked, then, how so little has been done towards the development and working of these deposits!

Want of capital and the inaccessibility of the country have been, and still are, the principal reasons. The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has opened the Kootenay District, and witness the developments and discoveries which have been made since that time. The discoverers, almost without exception, are poor men, and development of quartz mines requires capital; for, in most cases, no returns can be obtained, even when valuable ore is lying in the dump: the great hope, then, is that monied men may be induced to invest and help in the development. In many cases, the miners are themselves to blame—they give exaggerated values to their properties, based upon fictitious results obtained from picked assays, or hold undeveloped property at fabulous prices. This is more likely to do harm than good, and is bound to delay developments. Average results are what are required, and if these can be obtained from a quantity of ore, they give undoubted proof as to the value of the mines. But, in the absence of capital, these working tests can only be obtained under favourable circumstances, both as regards situation and richness of ore, which has usually to be packed for long distances to the nearest shipping points. Low grade ores cannot be tested in this way, except when reduction works are near, even though such deposits are equally as valuable as the richer ores. The following examples will give an idea of the present cost of shipping ore from mines which are favourably situated:—Silver King Mine, Toad Mountain to Nelson, a distance of seven miles, by pack train, $10 per ton, and from there to Butte, Montana, including smelting, $47 per ton; in all, $57 per ton. The cost of transportation from Hot Springs to the same destination, including smelting charges, $40 per ton. This does not include the cost of packing from the mines to the water edge, which, of course, varies with the distance. The erection of such reduction works in the province, then, is of great importance: First, because it allows miners to receive some returns from their ore, and thus aids them in going on with development. Second, the erection of such works by experienced men is a direct proof that the importance of the deposits are recognized. It is not out of place, therefore, to shew what has been done in this way.

In the *Cariboo District*, stamp mills have been erected as follows:—

Island Mountain Mining Company.—One ten stamp mill, operated by a fifty-horse power engine, with the view of working a larger number stamps as required.

British Columbia Mining and Milling Company, Stout's Gulch.—One ten stamp mill and engine (on the ground, but not erected).

Black Jack Quartz Mining Company.—A one stamp test mill, capable of working 1½ tons of ore per day (operated by water).

Nason & Co., Conklin's Gulch.—One four stamp mill, worked by water.