

MINING STATISTICS.—

Up to date of June 30th, 1898, various official estimates, when carefully compared, show that the Province of British Columbia has produced in round numbers mineral wealth to the amount of about \$115,000,000. During the palmy days of Cariboo many millions were produced annually, but with the working out of the shallow diggings the output diminished rapidly, and for some years the totals were small. Then came a

revival of interest by the opening up of vein or lode mining. While numerous placer and hydraulic camps continue to contribute a respectable annual quota to the general average, it is to the lode mines that the biggest returns are due. With the development of these the mineral industry has progressed with mighty strides.

In 1890 the production was, in round figures, \$2,600,000. The astounding rate of increase can best be judged by the following comparative tables, which are from official sources :

AMOUNT AND VALUE OF MATERIALS PRODUCED 1896 AND 1897.

Customary Measure.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold Placer	Oz. 27,201	\$ 544,026	25,676	\$ 513,520
Gold quartz	Oz. 62,259	1,244,180	106,111	2,122,820
Silver	Oz. 3,175,548	2,040,609	5,472,571	3,752,936
Copper	Lbs. 3,819,536	190,926	5,325,189	266,258
Lead	Lbs. 24,199,977	721,384	38,811,135	1,190,517
Cool	Tons. 846,235	2,527,145	882,504	2,648,322
Coke	Tons. 615	3,075	17,832	89,135
Other Materials		15,000		151,690
		\$ 7,146,125		\$10,455,268

From this it will be observed that there was an increase of \$3,308,843 in 1897 over the amounts produced in 1896. The most conservative estimates place the totals for 1898 at over the \$15,000,000 mark.

It is not possible at this date to give in detail the tonnage from the various properties that are contributing to the above amount, but the following figures are interesting in this connection :

Rossland, from January 1st, 1897, to June 30th, 1898, has shipped an aggregate of 121,000 tons of ore.

From Jan. 1, to June 18th, the mines adjacent to Rossland made shipments as follows: Le Roi, 22,970; War Eagle, 9,473; Cen-



Toboggan Slides—At the Beach.



tre Star, 910; Poorman, 453; Iron Mask, 1,673; Cliff, 140; Velvet, 350; Monte Cristo, 185; total, 36,164. To this can be added some 2,400 tons for the remainder of June, making in all for the first half of 1898 a total of about 38,500 tons for this camp.

The shipments of ore from Sandon from August 1, 1897, to June 30, 1898, were as follows :

Slocan Star, 3,500; Ruth, 5,500; Payne, 10,500; Idaho, 1,900; Noble Five, 520; Reco, 1,200; Last Chance, 1,400; Queen Bess, 201; Miscellaneous, 500; total, 25,224. This shows an average of nearly 2,300 tons per month from this camp. It must be remembered also that during this time there were periods when one or more heavy ships were shut down.

The following table shows the steady rate of increase during the past seven years, and the marked increase during the year 1897. As stated before, the influence of lode mining begins to be felt in the year 1892, since when the rate of increase has been entirely due to the production of the metalliferous mines, as the output of the colleries have not increased.



The Surf—English Bay.

This yearly increase affords an excellent idea of the future possibilities, in developing the great mineral wealth of the Province.