

UNITED STATES MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The production of minerals and metals in the United States for the year 1896, says a New York despatch, is given at a total value of \$653,311,468, showing a decrease as compared with 1895 of \$24,689,206, or about 3½ per cent. This decrease was largely in values rather than in quantities; in none of the chief articles was there any marked decrease, while in several there were considerable increases. The total production of metals in the year 1896 was valued at \$242,311,481, an increase of \$1,694,111 over the previous year, while the value of non-metallic substances was \$410,999,987, a decrease of \$26,383,377 from 1895. A large part of this was due to the lower values of coal, stone and a few other important substances, very little resulting from the smaller quantities.

The increase in copper has been extraordinary, the total gains amounting to 67,763,150 pounds, which was made in spite of a large decrease in the domestic demands, but was more than absorbed by the extraordinary exports for the year, which are the largest on record.

The gold production of the United States in 1896 reached the total of \$77,000,000, a gain over 1895 of no less than \$10,169,800. This extraordinary advance surpasses the gain reported from any other country.

The output of gold was no less than 26 per cent. of the total reported by the entire world.

The production of lead from domestic ores in 1896 amounted to 175,717 short tons, showing an increase of 20,863 tons over the preceding year. In addition to this there were 70,000 tons produced from imported ores, or refined from imported bullion.

The production of silver from domestic ores reached a total of 45,465,175 fine ounces, showing a decrease from that of 1895 amounting to 865,062 ounces only. The silver production has thus been maintained better than has been anticipated. Moreover, there were produced or refined from foreign ores and bullion by our smelters no less than 140,000,000 fine ounces of silver, making the total quantity refined or put into final marketable form in this country 85,465,173 fine ounces. This large production was almost entirely absorbed by the markets, and the average price of silver for the year shows an actual advance, having been 67 cents, although toward the close of the year it fell about 2 per cent. below that price. Of the silver obtained from foreign ores, it is estimated that 38,000,000 ounces came from Mexican ores and bullion and 2,000,000 ounces from materials brought into this country from Canada, chiefly from British Columbia.

C. P. R. TO BUILD THE CROW'S NEST RAILWAY

The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto World writes his paper as follows:

On his recent visit to the Pacific coast Mr. Davies was not able to inspect the mining camps, but his colleague, Mr. Blair, was more fortunate. The minister of railways is evidently greatly impressed with the needs of southern British Columbia in the way of improved and cheaper transportation facilities, and a definite announcement of the government's policy regarding the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway may therefore be expected very soon. Your correspondent ventures to predict that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will build the road, but in any loan or subsidy to that company conditions will be attached so as to keep down transportation rates. Mr. Blair foreshadowed this in his speech at Victoria a few days ago. He said he had found since coming to British Columbia a very strong feeling in favor of the continuation of the Crow's Nest Pass line to the coast. He believed that it would be built, and he believed that it was a necessity. The low-grade ores required to be handled cheaply and given low transportation rates in order to be profitable. He had no prejudice against any of the great railway companies, but he did not think that the true interests and welfare of the country could allow any corporation, no matter how great, to have control of all transportation interests. He would, therefore, impose on the railways some supreme control that should regulate their tariff rates. Cheap fuel must be guaranteed, too, and they could not have that if the coal lands were locked up in the hands of a railway corporation. Therefore, the question arose in his mind, that whether the government took upon them the railway to the coast, in whole or in part, the great coal lands should not be locked up in monopolistic hands. He would say the same, too, as regarded timber lands.

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Silver Bell Mining Company

Assays from surface ore: \$24.35.
\$42.96, \$53.00, \$52.30, \$51.90, \$85.26.
Ore taken from the bottom of the shaft on Oct. 26th, assayed \$103.14.

Situated two miles from Rossland, B.C., has good shipping facilities and all other conditions favorable for a paying mine.

TREASURY STOCK

is now on the market at Fifteen (15) Cents. The remarkably fine showing from development work warrants even a higher figure. Machinery now being installed.

(NOTE.—Before purchasing, Rossland residents and visitors are invited to call at the company's office and a representative will gladly show them the property.)

The Silver Bell Mining Company,
ROSSLAND, B. C.

G. A. POUNDER, Pres. W. J. GREEN, Vice-Pres.
J. A. SCAMAN, Secretary.

THE IBEX MINING COMPANY.

Limited Liability.

CAPITAL \$1,000,000, in Shares of \$1.00 Each, Fully-Paid and Non-Assessable.

TREASURY - - - 300,000 Shares.

This Company has been formed to operate the Ixex Mineral Claim, adjoining the famous Silver Bell mine.

There are three distinct ledges on the property, including the main ledge of the Silver Bell.

Development work is now in active progress. Five men are employed.

First block of Treasury Stock on the Market at 6 cents.

Tunnel now in 50 feet.

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Copper only \$2 00	Lead, wet assay \$2 50	Antimony .. \$5
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Silver only .. 1 00	Zinc .. 3 00	Cobalt .. 10 00
Gold and Silver 2 00	Sulphur .. 3 00	Coal Analysis 10 00
Lead, fire assay 1 00	Aluminum .. 3 00	

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DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

Leave.	ROSSLAND	Arrive.
10:30 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
9:00 a.m. NELSON	5:20 p.m.
7:00 a.m. SPOKANE	7:00 p.m.

Passengers for Kettle River and Boundary Creek connect at Marcus with stage daily.

COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY
Time Table in Effect July 1, 1896.

No. 2, PASSENGER, Daily except Sunday—	
Leaves Rossland	7:00 a. m.
Arrives at Trail	7:45 a. m.
No. 6, PASSENGER, Sunday only—	
Leaves Rossland	8:30 a. m.
Arrives at Trail	9:15 a. m.
No. 4, PASSENGER, Daily—	
Leaves Rossland	3:00 p. m.
Arrives at Trail	4:00 p. m.
No. 3, PASSENGER, Daily except Sunday—	
Leaves Trail	10:30 a. m.
Arrives at Rossland	11:40 a. m.
No. 1, PASSENGER, Daily—	
Leaves Trail	5:00 p. m.
Arrives at Rossland	5:45 p. m.
No. 5, PASSENGER, Sunday only—	
Leaves Trail	11:00 a. m.
Arrives at Rossland	11:45 a. m.

Connection made at Trail with ALL STEAMERS, both up and down the Columbia river.
For freight rates and further particulars, write to
F. P. GUTELIUS, Gen'l Sup't.
Rossland, B. C.