## MINING MATTERS.

### INCREASE IN CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The New York Engineering and Mining Journal in its recently published view of the production of gold and silver for 1900, directs attention to Canada in this connection in the following words: "The large production of Canada, which we estimate this year at $20,000,000, places it third in the list of gold producers. Four-fifths of this came from the Yukon territory, where the estimated output was $20,-000,000. British Columbia shows a fair increase, the exploitation of the Atlin country having turned the decline of placer mining into an increase.

"William F. Robertson, provincial mineralogist of British Columbia, has kindly furnished us with the following estimate for the province:

| | 1899 | 1900 | Increase. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Placer gold .. | $1,344,000 | $1,500,000 | $156,000 |
| Lode gold .. .. | 2,857,573 | 3,500,000 | 642,427 |
| | $4,202,473 | $5,000,000 | $797,527 |

This is a very conservative estimate. Mr. Robertson estimates the production of silver and of other metals, in connection with gold and silver, as follows:

| | 1899. | 1900. | Increase. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Silver, oz . | 2,939,413 | 3,800,000 | 860,587 |
| Lead, lbs. . | 21,862,438 | 45,000,000 | 23,137,562 |
| Copper, lbs | 7,722,591 | 10,000,000 | 2,277,409 |

"The gain in lead is the most striking feature in this statement."

It may be of interest to add, in order to show what the increase in Canada's output of gold was during 1900, that the total production during 1899 was $21,049,730, or $4,950,270 less than the estimated output for 1900. The chief gain in lead in British Columbia will be found to have come from the St. Eugene mine in East Kootenay, whilst the silver lead mines of the Slocan have added their quota of the increase.

### GRANBY COMPANY SMELTER AT GRAND FORKS, B. C.

The first furnace of the Granby Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's smelter, situate at Grand Forks, in the Boundary district of British Columbia, was blown in on August 21, and the second on October 13. Both have been running continuously ever since and up to Jan. 1 had treated 62,387 tons of ore, as under. In noting the increase for October and two following months it will, of course, be borne in mind that for nearly eight weeks there was only one furnace running and thereafter two were in operation during the remainder of the period under review. The quantity of ore smelted during the several months was:

| | Tons. |
|---|---|
| During August (11 days) | 2,302 |
| During September . . . . . | 8,753 |
| During October.. .. . .. . ... | 14,215 |
| During November .. .. .. .. .... | 18,650 |
| During December.. .. .. .. .. .. | 18,467 |
| Total .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ...... | 62,387 |

The total output of matte for that period was 2,200 tons. This matte averaged 51.6 per cent copper, with additional values in gold and silver, but to what amount the company is not disposed to make public.

It will be of interest to have the following definite assurance regarding the proposed increase of plant at the Granby Company's smelter. It is intended to double the furnace capacity and to put in a converter, and negotiations to that end are now in progress. The company expects to break ground for the new improvements in the early spring. The superintendent, A. B. W. Hodges, will leave Grand Forks for Chicago during the first part of February to make the final arrangements for the machinery and to let contracts for its supply. The company contemplates as well increasing its power plant by adding another water wheel and electric generator, each of 250 horse power. This addition to the electric power plant will give the company a total of 835 horse power available for its own use, outside of which it has developed 250 horse power for the use of the city of Grand Forks.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

During 1900 48,600 shares in the British Columbia Copper Company were sold on the New York Stock Exchange at prices ranging from $8.25, which was the lowest quotation reached in January, to $21.25, the highest, reached in December. The sales on the Boston Stock Exchange totalled 44,613 shares and the quotations varied from $8.63 to $21.75. There, too, the lowest was in January and the highest in December. The par value of the shares is $5. The company owns the smelter at Greenwood and the well known Mother Lode mine near that town.

About nine tons of copper ore from the White Horse, Yukon district, treated recently at the smelter at Everett, Puget Sound, returned 46 per cent. of copper, 11 oz. silver and a little gold per ton. It was picked bornite ore, but the Vancouver owners of the property regard its prospects as very promising.

The Victoria "Colonist" recently published a statement to the effect that the entire holdings of the Van Anda Copper and Gold Company, on Texada Island, B. C., had been sold. The consideration has not been made public but is stated unofficially to have been between $400,000 and $500,000. The property includes the townsite of Van Anda, a smelter with two furnaces, having together a daily treatment capacity of 125 tons of ore, and several mineral claims of which two have been developed—one to a depth of 500 feet and the other 160 feet. The average yield in all values from about 8,000 tons of Van Anda copper-gold ore was about $25 per ton. The purchase was made by John Lowles, representing an English syndicate. Mr. Lowles is an ex-member of the British House of Commons and a prominent member of the United Empire Trade League.

The London special correspondent of the "Engineering and Mining Journal" recently made the following observations regarding British Columbia in the London mining market in 1900.—"The British Columbia market has consisted chiefly in dealings in the Whitaker Wright group. His promoting companies—the British American Corporation and the London and Globe Finance Corporation — have issued three subsidiary companies this year, Le Roi, No. 2, Rossland, Great Western and Kootenay Mining, which have been formed to take over various claims and mines adjoining the Le Roi at Rossland. Apart from the actual flotations, the news from these properties have been very scanty all through the year. No dividend has been paid by the Le Roi, and only trifling ones by the parent companies. The cornering of the bears in Le Roi No. 2, led to an extraordinary inflation in the price of the shares, which were rushed up from their par value of £5 to £20. This high quotation has, of course, nothing to do with any consideration of discovery or developments at the mine, but is purely a stock exchange affair. The most successful British Columbia mine controlled in London is the Ymir, which, during the year, has come forward well as a producer, and under S. S. Fowler's management has paid for a large installation of plant entirely out of profits. The mines owned by the Granite Company are doing well, but the shares are not seen much on the market. Other English companies working in British Columbia have been on the whole unsuccessful. The Goldfields of British Columbia, originally started by Grant Govan, has proved an entire failure, and its Tangier and Waverley mines have been abandoned. The companies directed by Sir Charles Tupper and John Lowles have also been failures, but they are still going ahead with the Velvet mines, though the prospects are doubtful. The Hall Mines, Limited, has been reconstructed and new capital raised, so that the properties and smelter may be overhauled and developed on a new system, and work has once more been started. The law has very properly put a stop to the flotations of J. Morris Catton, whose Canadian, British Columbia and Klondike companies had acquired an unenviable notoriety. Practically nothing has been heard of the Klondike all year, but the Atlin district has received some attention and several people are putting money into developments there."

### London Fur Sales.

The Hudson's Bay Company offered, on January 21, the following 40,246 beaver, 918,447 musquash, 6,588 rabbits.

C. M. Lampson & Co. offered on January 22: Skunk, 165,000; civet cat, 8,000; lynx, 5,000; marten, 2,000, Japanese marten, 4,500; baum marten, 5,000, Japanese mink, 12,300; Russian sable, 1,500; mink, 100,000; otter, 1,-100; white fox, 2,000; Japanese fox, 500; and stone marten, fitch, kolinsky, ermine, opossum, 390,000; wombat, 47,000; wallaby, 200,000; kangaroo, 10,000, red fox, 23,000; Australian red fox, 5,700, beaver, 9,500, wolverine, 50, wild cat, 7,000; house cat, 5,000; badger, 300, and Australian sundries. On January 24: Bear, 4,000; American opossum, 27,000, gray fox, 6,200; kitt fox, 500; cross fox, 120; silver fox, 150; blue fox, 500, raccoon, 85,000; bastard chinchilla, 40,000, real chinchilla, 4,000; Thibet lamb, 1,200; Thibet lamb coats, etc., 250; China lamb, etc., 8,600; kid crosses, etc., 1,000, and 300 mouflon, etc. January 25: Green Ticket Catalogue: Musquash, 1,050,-000; wolf, 9,000, marmot, 16,000; pahmi, 800, and grebe and sundries.—Fur Trade Review.

### Railway Building.

Notwithstanding the winter season is now at its height, says the Fort Frances Times, and the weather slightly cool, with the thermometer chasing around below zero, the work of construction on the new railway is progressing rapidly. Captain F. Crandall, resident manager for Seaman & Co., the big timber contractors, has just returned from Calm Lake region above Sturgeon Falls, and reports great activity all along the line of the right of way. Camps and other buildings are established every ten miles from Gash Point to the Antikokan Iron Range, the present end of the track, and the right of way men are working like beavers in clearing the line for grading. The rock work under contractors Stewart and Mann, is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, while the islands in Rainy Lake, along the line of the proposed big bridge, are being levelled to the grade by sub-Contractor Oleson, who has 150 men at work.

The work of getting out ties and bridge timber, and grading between Gash Point and Beaver Mills, has been let to Alex. Mann, who intends to push things along this route as soon as the snow is off the ground. In the meantime ties will be cut and hauled along the right of way now being cleared, so that grading can be commenced as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

From Beaver Mills to Gash Point it is estimated that 180,000 ties will be required, and from Gash Point to the present end of the track eastward, 500,000. In addition to ties about 300,000,000 feet of piling and bridge timber will be wanted, which will give some idea of the vast amount of work now being done in this district.

Farmers along Rainy River are quite happy over the building of the new railroad, as they are earning considerable by clearing the right of way through their farms, as well as getting out timber and ties.

### Ocean Grain Freights.

Business in ocean grain freight from this port for May continues quiet, says the Montreal Gazette, but the tone of the market is weaker and agencies are now prepared to accept lower rates than were named two or three weeks ago. A large line of London freight was taken recently for May at 2s 3d, which is a decline of 1½d on previous engagements. Liverpool freight is offering at 1s 6d, and a few days ago 1s 10½d was bid for the same and refused. Glasgow is quoted at 2s 3d.

Latest mail advices from New York say: Interest in sail tonnage is yet of an exceedingly limited character, there being few urgent orders at present seeking acceptance. Rates for long voyage vessels are well sustained, but for tonnage in other departments the advantage continues with the shipper, this being noticed particularly in the case of coasting lumber tonnage. Full cargo grain steamers are given very little consideration, and the absence of important inquiry influences an easy feeling regarding rates, though the market is quite quotably lower. Prompt Cork for orders boats are held at 3s 2d, while for all February and March the rates named are 3s 1½d and 3s, respectively. Berth term rates to picked ports remain 2s 9d, 2s 7½d and 2s 6d for prompt, February and March. Charters: Grain—British steamer Aldworth (re-charter), 20,000 qrs., from Philadelphia to Surrey Dock, London, 6s, berth terms, and oats, 2s 3d, prompt. British steamer Raithwaite, 19,000 qrs., from Philadelphia to Lisbon, 3s, February.

### Flaxseed Grades.

An important circular has been issued by the Minnesota board of grain appeals. A copy of the circular has been sent to all producers and consumers of flaxseed in the state. It creates an immediate grade, just below No. 1 northern flaxseed, to be known as No. 1 flaxseed.

There has been a considerable complaint on the part of the farmers whose seed failed to reach standard, and was labeled "rejected." The new grade covers a small range, but will include a large share of the crop. The new ruling will go into effect June 15, in time for the next crop, but not affecting the old seed. The circular issued by the board is as follows:

To the produce and grain merchants of the Northwest:

Based upon our experience, during our term of office, we the board of grain appeals for the state of Minnesota, after a careful consideration of the best interests of the producer and consumer, have concluded to revise the flax rules and to establish an additional grade of flaxseed, to be known as No. 1 flaxseed. These grades to take effect on and after June 15, 1901.

No. 1 Northwestern flaxseed to grade No. 1 northwestern, shall be mature, sound, dry and sweet. It shall be northern grown. The maximum quantity of field, stack, storage or other damaged seed intermixed shall not exceed 12½ per cent. The minimum weight shall be 51 pounds to the measured bushel of commercially pure seed.

No. 1 flaxseed shall be sound, dry and free from mustiness, and carrying not more than 25 per cent of immature field, stack, storage or other damaged flaxseed, and weighing not less than 50 pounds to the measured bushel of commercially pure seed.

Rejected flaxseed—Flaxseed that is damp, immature, field damaged or musty, yet not to a degree to be unfit for temporary storage and having a test weight of not less than 47 lbs. to the measured bushel of commercially pure seed.

No grade flaxseed—Flaxseed that is damp, mouldy, very musty, wet or otherwise unfit for storage, or having a weight of less than 47 pounds to the measured bushel of commercially pure seed, shall be no grade.

Our Montreal wire last week noted an advance of ½c in the price of beef hides in that city. This was due to local competition in buying and was not based upon any real strength in the situation.

The second annual convention of the North American Fish and Game Protective Association, which began at Montreal last Thursday, drew a couple of hundred sportsmen, railway men and officials interested in the matter from all parts of Canada and from several of the states of the Union.

W. H. Mills, addressing the Water and Forest Association of California, said there was not a more vital subject before the people of the state than that of forest and water supply. "The destruction of our forest lands has resulted in climatic changes and our rainfall has grown considerably less. The earth is the source of all wealth and is the true source of empire, and agriculture is the world's foundation." Spain was once the mistress of the world. The cutting of her valuable forest lands and the consequent decrease in rainfall and diminished moisture caused her agriculture to languish and her whole commercial fabric fell apart.

The position of hogs, both live and dressed, is dominating the market for the product at present more than usual, says the Toronto Globe. Although the prices of live hogs dropped 30c last week and 25c to-day the product has shown no signs of weakness, notwithstanding the slow demand for most lines. The fact of the matter appears to be that the hogs do not exist in the country. A farmer who said he had sold $1,300 worth of hogs this season was asked by a grain man here why he did not buy more hogs and feed his coarse grain in preference to marketing it, he replied that he was unable to get the hogs. The hog crop seems to be much below that of last year. In view of the strong market for hogs holders of products are not shading prices to induce sales, and they declare that values must continue firm. There is a good demand for lard, and as the stocks are not heavy prices for that product are very firm.