

PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND ESTIMATE

—OF—

MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR THE YEAR 1912.

THIS bulletin has been prepared before the receipt of the official reports for the year 1912 of the Gold Commissioner and Mining Recorders of the Province, and the customary returns of mineral production annually made by managers of mines and reduction-works; consequently, it must necessarily be regarded as being simply a preliminary review of the progress of the past year, together with an estimate of the quantities and value of the several mineral products of the Province, which it is believed will prove to be approximately correct.

The accompanying table shows an estimated mineral production during 1912 of a total value of \$2,000,000. It will be seen that the total value of production in 1912 is expected to be \$0,100,028 more than in 1911, and more by \$0,228,084 than that of 1910, the total for the last-mentioned year (\$20,377,000) being the highest on record in the history of mineral production in British Columbia.

CONDITIONS FAVOURABLE FOR PRODUCTION IN 1912.

Conditions during the year 1912 were, on the whole, favourable to an increased mineral production, and the results obtained must be regarded as highly satisfactory, although in some respects the earlier expectations were not fully realized; for instance, an unusually dry and short working season affected the production of placer gold; the yield of lode gold also fell short of what had appeared earlier in the season, a reasonable promise from all the districts contributing substantially to the total production of that metal. The production of lead also seems to have been somewhat less than had been anticipated, although it is quite possible that it will be found to have been underestimated.

In coal also the increase in production is smaller than had been looked for, but this is explained by the fact that during the last quarter of the year, labour troubles affected adversely the output of the Cumberland and Extension Collieries on Vancouver Island. With these exceptions, however, conditions were favourable for the production of minerals in larger quantities than in several years past.

Average prices for the year of silver and copper, especially of the latter, induced efforts to maintain production on as large a scale as was practicable; one of the good results was an output of copper that, as regards both quantity and total value, is the highest on record in the Province.

PROVINCE'S PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION IN CANADA.

British Columbia's proportion of the mineral production of the whole of Canada continues to be comparatively large. The aggregate value of the production of this Province to the end of 1912 is, approximately, \$430,000,000, and since the published official records of that of the whole Dominion do not