

also show increases in both quantity and total value. Lead fell off in quantity but its total value was higher. Zinc and coke are known to have decreased during the year, though there were particular reasons for the falling off in production of these minerals, as will be pointed out presently.

As to districts—the Boundary made the largest increase and further strengthened its claim to being the biggest copper-producing district in Canada. East Kootenay, which occupies a similar position in regard to lead, came next. While in several other districts production showed little, if any, increase, there were in them important developments which may be expected to add considerably to the output of mineral from those districts in the near future.

GOLD.

The further falling off in placer gold (1905 production having previously been the lowest since 1898) is attributable to causes which are matters for congratulation rather than the reverse. In both Cariboo and Atlin districts, the two chief placer gold sections of the Province, financially strong companies have been and still are engaged in preparing for extensive operations next year or the following. The Guggenheim enterprises in both districts named are on such a scale as should add largely to the quantity of placer gold recovered after works now in course of construction shall have been completed. In Atlin individual miners are rapidly giving place to companies, and steam shovels are superseding small appliances where large quantities of gravel are to be handled.

Lode gold was larger in quantity recovered by between 11,000 and 12,000 oz. The increase of nearly a quarter of a million tons of ore treated in the Boundary added proportionately to the lode gold output, there being a little gold associated with the copper ore. Rossland's production was well kept up. The Ymir mine has again been a disappointment in point of gold yield. The Nickel Plate, in lower Similkameen, was not worked to the full capacity of the Daly Reduction Company's 40-stamp mill at Hedley, to which, however, it sent between 30,000 and 35,000 tons of ore. The Iron Mask at Kamloops and the Brown-Alaska Company's mine on Portland Canal also contributed to the lode gold total. The two Vancouver Island smelters together produced rather more than 9,000 oz. of gold, but part of this was recovered from foreign ores and matte.

SILVER.

The St. Eugene increased its output of lead-silver ore and consequently its silver production, and the Sullivan mine, also in East Kootenay, added its quota of silver from its low-grade ore. The North Star was another East Kootenay mine producing silver.

Boundary and Rossland mines helped a little, but the Slocan output was again much below expectations. The closing of the silver-lead smelters at Nelson and Trail for several weeks during the strike at the Crow's Nest Pass coal mines was in part re-

sponsible for the increase in production of this metal in 1906 not having been larger—it was only about 30,000 oz., the year's total having been approximately 3,470,000 oz. as compared with 3,439,417 oz. in 1905.

COPPER.

It is estimated that fully three-fourths of the copper produced came from Boundary mines which in 1905, according to the "Annual Report of the Minister of Mines" for that year, gave an average assay, based upon copper recovered, of 1.53 per cent. With an output exceeding 1,100,000 tons of copper ore in 1906 an estimate of 33,000,000 lb. of copper as the district's production should be well within the mark.

Rossland, with an output of about 278,000 tons of ore having an average copper content of rather less than 1 per cent, contributed between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 lb.

The Coast mines, chiefly the Tyce on Vancouver Island and the Britannia on Howe Sound, made up practically all the remainder of the year's total of this metal.

The Vancouver Island smelters made a combined production of 6,500,000 lb. (from which will have to be deducted the copper content of foreign ores smelted and matte converted).

The Iron Mask at Kamloops is reported as not having made so large an output in 1906 as in 1905. Its concentrator and small smelting furnace were both closed down, presumably not having given advantageous results.

LEAD.

The St. Eugene again maintained its very considerable advantage in lead production, and the Sullivan was also an important producer. On the other hand Slocan is believed to have fallen short heavily. The Blue Bell mine in Ainsworth division will likely produce a considerable quantity of lead when arrangements for treating its big body of lead-zinc ores shall have been completed.

ZINC.

The production of zinc received a set-back by the charging of duty on zinc ore and concentrate entering the United States from British Columbia, and the non-completion of the Canadian Metal Company's zinc smelter at Frank, Alberta. Additional plant is being installed at these works with the object of making them suitable for the economic production of zinc. The exhaustive report of the Zinc Commission, lately published, gives valuable information relative to the zinc resources of the Province.

COAL AND COKE.

If the revised returns that shall later be supplied by the several producing coal-mining companies shall confirm the approximate figures already obtained from them, it will be found that the total production of coal in 1906 was larger than that of any previous year. There was not so large a quantity of coke manufactured, though, owing to a strike in the Crow's Nest Pass.