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British Columbia Telephone Company

### PROGRESS OF MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1919.

(Continued From Page 2.)

to predict, with any degree of certainty, what output in copper our British Columbia mines will make during the coming year. Should the market price improve somewhat, or should the items affecting the cost of production diminish, we can confidently predict a much increased output, for the mines are in a position to make it, should the conditions render it commercially profitable so to do.

Generally the outlook for 1920 is most reassuring. The opening of new camps in the Portland Canal district has been the outstanding event of the past few months. There is no doubt that this district will be subjected to extensive prospecting and development this year. In short, there is every reason to believe that 1920 will be most important to the Province in point of mining development.

The production of gold, both placer and lode, shows a decrease of about \$286,667, as is fully pointed out in the detailed notes on that metal. With the value of the product fixed, while the abnormally high prices of all items entering into the costs of production remain as they are, the condition of this branch of the industry never can be satisfactory.

The output of silver shows an increase as regards the value of the product. Silver is the only metal in the list the price of which may be considered abnormally high, and from the present outlook this high price seems likely to continue for some years, to the great advantage of the mines producing the metal.

In British Columbia our silver is almost entirely derived from ores carrying also other metals which have not increased in value.

The production of lead shows a decrease, due partly to strikes at some of the larger producing mines, and on account of the low price of the metal due to an overstocked market.

As regards quantity and value, zinc shows a largely increased production as compared with 1918. A considerable portion of the ore mined or concentrates produced found their way to the United States for smelting.

The collieries of the Province about held their own as far as production was concerned during the past year. The Coast collieries show an increase, but the Crowsnest collieries show a slight decrease in coal produced and a large decrease in the amount of coke produced, due to a long-continued period of labor trouble, to some extent due to the large percentage of aliens employed in and about these mines. Due to this fact the total value of the products of the collieries this year is about \$858,323 less than in 1918.

Increases in the selling-prices of coal have been allowed at various times in the past few years by the Dominion Government Fuel Controller, until as nearly as can be calculated the average price of coal for the year, over the Province as a whole, has been about \$5 a ton, and the similar average price for coke about \$7 a ton.

The total gross amount of coal mined in the Province during the year was 2,408,948 tons (2,240 lb.), of which there was used for making coke some 141,407 tons, leaving a net production of coal, used as such, of 2,267,541 tons. The amount of coke produced was 91,138 tons (2,240 lb.). The increased selling price of coal and coke has previously been discussed.

The value of the net coal production for the year was \$11,975,671.

British Columbia has very large areas of undeveloped and unprospected mineral lands, and the return of peace will hasten the development of her mineral resources. There will be a considerable accession to the ranks of the pros-