

	1901.	1902.
Copper . . . . .	16.11	11.62, a decreased value of 27.3 p.c.
Silver . . . . .	58.95	52.16, a decreased value of 11.5 p.c.
Lead (in bond) . . . . .	2.165	1.94, a decreased value of 10.4 p.c.

\* \* \* \* \*

"This drop in the market value of the metals has had a double effect on the statistics, inasmuch as it has reduced the value of such ores as were mined, and has constrained the miner to restrict his output.

\* \* \* \* \*

"As compared with the previous year the production of 1902 shows, as to market values, for—

Placer gold, an increase of . . . . .	10.4 per cent.
Lode gold, an increase of . . . . .	12.4 "
Silver, a decrease of . . . . .	32.7 "
Copper, a decrease of . . . . .	25.0 "
Lead, a decrease of . . . . .	58.8 "
Coal, a decrease of . . . . .	4.3 "
Coke, an increase of . . . . .	0.71 "
Other metals and materials, an increase of . . . . .	15.0 "

The remainder of the report may be briefly summarized. The tonnage of ore mined in the Province has been greater, amounting this year to 998,999 tons, as against 920,416 mined in 1901, an increase of 8.6 per cent. This great increase is entirely due to Rossland and the Boundary, more particularly the latter, in which district 521,402 tons of ore were mined and smelted.

The number of mines that shipped ore during 1902 was 124, these together employing 3,345 men, 1,126 above ground and 2,219 below. The statistics of the non-shipping mines are very incomplete, only 44, employing a total of 342 men, having reported to the Mines Department.

The gross output of coal during the year was 1,641,626 tons, of which 244,232 tons were converted into coke, leaving a net output of 1,397,394 tons of coal and 128,015 tons of coke. The net output of the Vancouver Island collieries was 1,173,893 tons of coal and 20,178 tons of coke, and that of the Crow's Nest Pass collieries 223,501 tons of coal and 107,837 tons of coke. Of last year's production 775,300 tons of coal and 38,780 tons of coke were exported to the United States. The recently-made addition of transportation facilities giving direct communication between the Crow's Nest mines and the United States, and the removal of the U. S. import duty of 67 cents per ton together promises a much larger export during 1903.

The combined placer and lode gold output for the year, as usual, maintained an increase, having reached a total value of \$5,961,439 the highest gold output made by the Province, and an increase over that of 1901 of \$642,706, or about 18 per cent. The greater part of the placer gold came from the Cariboo and Quesnel divisions of the Cariboo district, and the Atlin division of the Cassiar district. Hydraulic

was not successful on the whole last year, a shortage of water having been the chief preventing cause. There was not so much dredging for gold done as in some earlier years. Lode gold mining, with a production of \$4,888,269, showed an increase over 1901 of about 12 1-2 per cent., this coming chiefly from the gold-copper mines of the Rossland and Boundary districts. The product of lode gold mining in British Columbia has shown the steadiest and most regular increase, and this is the most valuable mineral product the Province has. It can not, however, be classed as even a set branch of the mining industry, inasmuch as here the gold is found mostly in combination with other metals, such as copper or silver. A certain amount of this production is derived from stamp milling, etc., but chiefly it is due to smelting. The following shows approximately that the gold has been derived from—

Direct smelting of copper-gold ores . . . . \$4,232,948  
Combined amalgamation and concentration. 655,321

Total . . . . . \$4,888,269

The total amount of silver produced was 3,917,917 ozs., valued at \$1,941,328, a considerable decrease as compared with 1901, but practically the same output in quantity as that of 1900. Of this total amount about 25 per cent. was mined in association with copper, while the remaining 75 per cent. was mainly derived from the silver-lead ores of the Slocan district and of East Kootenay.

The lead production was 88,536,381 lbs., or only about half that of 1901, owing to the suspension of the East Kootenay lead mines. The production was, nevertheless, greater than that of 1899.

The output of copper was 29,636,057 lbs., an increase of 2,032,311 lbs. or 7.4 per cent. over that of preceding year, but owing to the reduced market prices of this metal the value of the year's output was \$1,000,290 less than was that of 1901. The Boundary yielded the greater part of the copper production, with an output of more than half a million tons of ore, while Rossland made the next largest output. The following shows the districts from which the copper output of 1902 was obtained:—

	Lbs.
Boundary . . . . .	14,955,582
Rossland . . . . .	11,667,807
Coast . . . . .	3,466,631
Nelson . . . . .	491,144
Other districts . . . . .	24,843
Total . . . . .	29,636,057