

# The Mining Record

VOL. XI.

APRIL, 1904.

No. 4

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING RECORD

Devoted to the Mining Interests of the Pacific Northwest.

PUBLISHED BY

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RECORD, LIMITED

H. MORTIMER LAMB, Managing Editor.

Victoria, B. C., Office, Province Building.  
Vancouver, P. W. Charleson, Hastings St.  
London Office: 24 Coleman Street, E. C.  
Denver, Col.: National Advertising Co.  
San Francisco: Duke's Agency.

### SUBSCRIPTION TERMS:

Canada and the United States, one year - - - \$2.00  
Great Britain and Foreign, one year - - - \$2.50

Advertising Rates on Application.

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THE MANAGING EDITOR, B. C. RECORD, LTD.,

P. O. Drawer 645, Victoria, B. C.

## THE MONTH.

It is the custom of the Provincial Mineralogist to each year prepare for the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia a table showing the comparative mineral production of this and other Provinces of the Dominion. The form in which this table is published exhibits in a striking manner the proportion of the total production of the principal metals, and of coal and coke, respectively, of the Yukon, of British Columbia, and of all the remaining parts of the Dominion combined. In this table it is made clear that the production of gold, silver, copper and lead in this Province is larger year by year than that of all parts of the Dominion east of the Rocky Mountains. In iron and in nickel the advantage is very decidedly against this Province, but, though coal and coke are also still much in favour of the Eastern Provinces, British Columbia is gradually lessening the disproportion in output of these latter products. We are not yet in possession of the necessary particulars to admit of our making a comparison in detail—these will in due course be published by the Provincial Department of Mines—but we are sufficiently well informed as to last year's mineral production in this Province to allow of our presenting the approximate percentages that appear below. The Summary of the Mineral Production of Canada in 1903, prepared (subject to revision) by the Section of Mines of the Geological Survey Department, places the total

value of the metallic minerals at \$33,707,403, of non-metallic minerals (including coal and coke, \$17,621,671) at \$29,219,107, and the estimated value of mineral products not returned at \$300,000, making a grand total of \$63,226,510. The item of \$300,000 is left out of account in making the calculations that give the following results: British Columbia produced in metallic minerals 36 per cent. of the Dominion total; in coal and coke 27 per cent., and in all non-metallic minerals (including coal and coke) 18 per cent. Further, if the mineral yield of the Yukon and British Columbia be taken as together representing the production of what may be designated the Pacific slope portion of the Dominion and be compared with that of the Canadian territory east of the Rocky Mountains, it will be found that the former produced 75 per cent. of the year's total metallic product or 47 per cent. of the gross mineral product—metallic and non-metallic combined. We commend these figures to the attention and careful consideration of British Columbia members of the Dominion parliament in the hope that they will find them of service when urging the Right Honourable the Prime Minister to accede to the request preferred by the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia that a Minister of Mines be appointed to the Cabinet and that such minister be a representative from the Pacific Coast.

The Annual Report for 1902 of the Section of Mines of the Geological Survey of Canada came to hand last month. There is much interesting information in this report, which deals fully with the mineral industries of the Dominion. It is unfortunate, though, that so long a delay has taken place before this revised and detailed review has been made available to the public, which now has before it the summary statement for the following year (1903). The report appears to have been completed by the end of October last, yet although the information it contained was then ten months old, a further delay of four months took place before the volume was printed and mailed. At the recent Convention of the Provincial Mining Association the Provincial Bureau of Mines was much blamed for delay in getting out its report for 1902, which was printed and submitted to the Legislature before the end of May last. That was late enough in all conscience, but it was nine months ahead of the Dominion revised report. We are not suggesting that the Provincial Bureau of Mines deserves especial praise for having been in point of time so far ahead of the Dominion Section of Mines, but are doing the former the bare justice of directing attention to the fact that other official publications of a like nature are much longer in being placed at the