

the Kicking Horse Pass. G. O. Buchanan has a saw, planer and shingle mill at Nelson, in the Kootenay district, established last year. Capacity of mill, 50,000 feet per day. Gonello Bros. have also established a mill at Sproat, in the same district, recently. Up the Columbia river from Golden station about twelve miles, H. J. Cannon & Co. have a mill of about 10,000 feet capacity. This mill was established last year, and is run by water power. A new mill is being established at Gambier Island, on the coast, by the West Ray Mill Co., with head office at Vancouver. It will have a capacity of about 40,000 feet per day. There are some other small interior mills which have escaped our notice, but the list is sufficient to show the development which has taken place in the lumber industry of the province.

A Great Mineral Country.

Elsewhere in this journal will be found an article on coal mining in British Columbia. This, though an important industry, is only one branch of mining which may be carried on profitably in the province. British Columbia contains almost every mineral known to the mineralogist. Gold, silver, coal, iron, copper, galena, mercury, platinum, antimony, bismuth, plumbago, molybdenum, cinnabar, mica, marble, slate, salt, paint are among the minerals already discovered. These are scattered all over the province, through the immense area of British Columbia, placed at 341,335 square miles. A great portion of this vast extent of country has as yet been very imperfectly explored, and where so much has already been discovered, far more valuable finds may yet be looked for. To the prospector for mineral wealth, British Columbia is the most inviting field in the world at the present time. Only enough is known to prove the great wealth of the country, while the real work of prospecting is yet in its infancy.

GOLD.

Gold is distributed over a very wide range of country, and gold mining has been carried on since 1836. In 1858 the great rush of miners to the province took place. A couple of years later the famous Cariboo district was discovered. In 1858 the yield of gold for the province was placed at \$520,353. The following year it increased to over one and a half millions, and in 1861 the yield was placed at \$3,735,850, of which \$2,801,898 was actually exported by the banks, and the balance is estimated to have been taken away by private parties. This was the "boom" year in gold mining in the province. The following year the yield decreased to \$3,491,205. Between the years 1865 and 1881 the annual yield of gold ranged from \$1,000,000 to \$3,500,000. Since 1881 it has been under one million dollars. Last year the yield was the lowest on record since 1858, being only \$593,923. The total yield of gold since 1858 is placed at \$52,236,753.

The decrease in the yield is due to the washing out of favorite localities, and decrease in the number of miners, while quartz mining has been largely neglected. Where such vast wealth has been obtained by the primitive process of placer mining, it is certain that greater things will be accomplished when an era of active quartz mining sets in. Up to the present time quartz mining has not been prosecuted to any extent, but the last year or two considerable progress has been made in this direction, and

the immediate future promises a great development of the mineral resources of the country. The influence of railway communication through the country is now being felt, machinery is being introduced and the prospect is that the development of quartz mining will soon again increase the yield of precious metals to an amount in excess of the palmy days of placer mining.

The return of statistics for last year shows 179 companies working in the Cariboo district, thirteen of which were quartz claims. Thirty-seven companies were working in the Cassiar district, all of which were placer mining. In the West Kootenay district ten companies were working, six of which were quartz claims. These quartz claims in this district are principally silver. In Eastern Kootenay eighteen companies were operating, all being placer claims. In Lillooet thirty companies were working, and in Yale 136 companies, thirty-five of which are reported as quartz claims. It must be noted that a great many of the companies working are simply prospecting, and the quartz claims, with a very few exceptions, have not been developed to a great extent. A large number of new claims were located during the year, as for instance in Eastern Kootenay about 150 new claims were recorded. The Cariboo district is still the principal gold producing region, the yield last year in this district being \$231,892. Cassiar produced \$54,010; East Kootenay \$49,000; Lillooet \$60,361, and Yale \$46,300. West Kootenay produced \$47,873 worth of silver. The output from the other districts was all gold. The yield from the Cariboo district is almost entirely from placer mining, and it is sufficient to show that great things could be accomplished by the development of quartz mining in the district. The Provincial Government established reduction works in 1889 at Barkerville, in the Cariboo district, with the object of encouraging quartz mining. These works promised to be of great value, and several companies commenced to take out ores, but unfortunately the works were destroyed by fire before they were able to accomplish much. The distance from the railway retards the development of quartz mining in the Cariboo country. The The Omineca and Cassiar districts are farther north, the former lying just north of Cariboo, and the latter in the far northwestern portion of the province. Lillooet and Yale are older and more accessible sections, being closer to the main line of the Canadian Pacific.

The Kootenay district has been given a great deal of attention of late, and it is here that the greatest progress has been made during the last year or two. This region is more accessible, as it has several stretches of navigable water running through it, which can be reached from the railway. At Big Bend in Western Kootenay, some placer mining is being done, with varying results. In Eastern Kootenay placer mining is carried on at a number of points for gold, with fair returns. In the Yale district a number of quartz claims have been developed to some extent, particularly at the Nicola mines, and some rich assays of gold and silver have been made.

SILVER MINING.

The Kootenay district is being looked to as a future great silver mining region. At Illecillewaet considerable development work has been done, and some valuable galena ore has been taken out. Several companies

are operating at this place. At Fish Creek a valuable galena vein has been struck, assaying 80 to 150 ounces of silver to the ton. On the south arm of the Upper Arrow Lake, a number of claims have been located and some good samples of ore have been taken out. The Toad Mountain section is another division of Western Kootenay, about which a great deal has been heard. A good deal of work has been done on some of the claims in this region and some very rich ore has been taken out. This district is the centre of attraction at present. Some of the claims show a considerable yield of gold. In the Nelson district some ores showing good assays of gold and silver have been found, while wonderful discoveries of copper have been made. The Hendrix mines are among the most noted of the Nelson region. They contain very valuable galena ores.

All these claims are in West Kootenay. In Eastern Kootenay a large number of claims have been located all over the district, and some rich, gold, silver, galena and copper ores have been discovered, besides other minerals. The principal districts of East Kootenay are Jubilee Mountain, McMurdo, Windermere, Findlay Creek, Toby Creek, Spillmehene, etc.

The most hopeful indications for the Kootenay country are the establishing of smelters at accessible points. At Revelstoke in West Kootenay, the Kootenay Smelting and Trading Syndicate have this spring completed a smelter, with a capacity of sixty tons per day, and a sampling works of 120 tons per day. Everything is now complete, and the smelter is now ready for operation as soon as the quantity of ore available is sufficient to warrant the commencement of work. The company is prepared to purchase all the ores offered. This has stimulated work throughout the country tributary to Revelstoke. Revelstoke is situated on the Columbia river, at a point where it is crossed by the Canadian Pacific railway. The river is navigable from Revelstoke clear down into the State of Washington. The Canadian Pacific railway is now building a short line of railway to connect the Columbia river with Kootenay Lake, and as soon as this is completed, which will be some time this fall, the valuable mines in the Nelson district and around Kootenay Lake will be placed in communication by rail and water with the smelter at Revelstoke.

At Golden, in East Kootenay, the Golden Mining and Smelting Company is erecting a smelter with a capacity of forty tons per day. In connection with this smelter, roasting furnaces are being established, for treating sulphurous ores; also sampling works. This smelter will be completed this fall. Golden is on the main line of the Canadian Pacific, and has a considerable stretch of navigable water tributary to it, on the upper Columbia river, along which are situated many rich mines, in various stages of development.

WOULD TAKE A VOLUME.

This is but a hop, skip and jump sketch of mining in British Columbia. It would require a large volume and ample time and great study to do the question justice. A couple of hours devoted to a running article must of necessity be very imperfect. Many valuable mineral discoveries have been made in addition to those mentioned. So far as gold is concerned it may be said that it can be found in almost every part of the province, on the mainland and Vancouver