

Mining Throughout British Columbia

Some Notes from the Bulletin of the Provincial Mineralogist on the Development and Production of Silver, Lead, Copper and Zinc Mining for 1916.

The quantity of silver produced is estimated to have been about 3,366,205 oz., worth \$2,099,838, a decrease from the production of 1915 of 301 oz., but, owing to the higher market value of silver, an increase in value of \$510,847. The increase in the market price of silver which commenced in the last months of 1915 continued throughout 1916.

Approximately the output was the same as in 1915. Increases occurred in Fort Steele, Ainsworth, Omineca, Nelson, Boundary, and the Coast Districts, and decreases occurred in Slocan, Skeena, and Trail Creek Divisions.

The Slocan District again leads all others in the production of silver, although this year's output of that district was apparently about 200,000 oz. less than in 1915.

The largest producer in the Slocan was again the Standard, at Silverton, with an output estimated at about 680,000 oz., followed by the Rambler-Cariboo and the Galena Farm. The production of the Slocan District would have been considerably greater but for the destruction, early in the year, by fire of the mill where the Surprise ore was treated. This mine, therefore, only made a small output as compared with about 300,000 oz. in 1915. A new mill has been erected and is in operation, so this property will contribute substantially to the silver production in 1917. The total number of shipping mines in the district was about thirty.

The larger production in Ainsworth is due to increased production from the Highland, owned by the Consolidated Company, and the Bluebell, both of which were operated continuously throughout the year.

In East Kootenay the main production is from the Sullivan mine, which is expected to have produced about 500,000 oz., which is a slight increase over the 1915 production of 474,253 oz. Small amounts come from the St. Eugene, Monarch, and Paradise mines.

Over 55 per cent. of the Boundary production of silver comes from the Granby Company's mines at Phoenix. Other mines contributing are the Mother Lode, Sally, Horn Silver, and Union.

The silver production from Trail Creek comes from the smelting of the gold-copper ores of Rossland camp, which carry about one-half ounce of silver to the ton.

The Skeena production comes almost entirely from the Granby Company's Hidden Creek mine, at Anyox.

The Omineca production shows an increase of about 34 per cent. as compared with the previous year, largely due to an increased production from the Silver Standard mine, at Hazelton.

The Coast production of silver comes from the smelting of copper ores carrying low values in the precious metals. As a larger tonnage of copper was smelted, the silver-output shows an increase.

About 82.5 per cent. of the total Provincial output of silver comes from the treatment of silver-lead-zinc ores and the balance mainly from the smelting of gold-copper ores carrying silver.

The total amount of lead produced in 1916 is estimated to have been 52,242,183 lbs., valued at \$3,186,773. This represents, as compared with the previous year, an increase in quantity of 5,738,593 lbs., and in value of \$1,247,573. This is the greatest production of silver-lead since the year 1913, and the value of the 1916 output, by reason of the high market price for lead, is the greatest in the history of mining in the province. The previous record year was in 1900, when 63,358,621 lbs. was produced, valued at \$2,691,887.

The market price of lead remained at a high mark all year; the average price for January, 1916, was 5.921 cents,

the December price 7.51 cents, and the average 6,858 cents a pound.

The large production in Fort Steele Division comes almost entirely from the Sullivan mine, owned by the Consolidated Company; the 1916 output of the mine was nearly the same as in 1915.

The figures for Slocan show a slight decrease from the output of the previous year, due principally to the temporary withdrawal of the Surprise from the shipping-list. The heaviest contributor was again the Standard, at Silverton, with an output of about 6,500,000 lbs., followed by the Galena Farm with 1,900,000 lbs., the Rambler-Cariboo with 1,300,000 lbs., and the Slocan Star with over 1,000,000 lbs.

The production from Ainsworth shows an increase of 5,253,655 lbs., or 153 per cent. This large increase was due to the return of the Highland to the shipping-list with a production estimated at 2,580,000 lbs., and to the operation of the Bluebell mine for a full year instead of one-half year as in 1915, with a corresponding doubling of production or nearly so.

Nelson Division produced about 200,000 lbs. more lead than in 1915. The principal shipper is the Emerald, but the 1916 production was augmented by shipments from the H. B., Molly Gibson, and Spokane mines.

The Windermere-Golden District produced about three times as much lead as in 1915. The Monarch, at Field, made about the same output as in 1915, but a number of properties were worked in the Windermere District which had been idle for some years. Of these, the Paradise was the most important and the Lead Queen was the next biggest shipper. In all, seven or eight properties are reported to have shipped from the Windermere Division.

The Omineca production of lead was about the same as in 1915, and the greater portion of it came from the Silver Standard mine, at Hazelton, which produced 193,000 lbs. of lead.

The amount of copper estimated to have been produced during the year 1916 is the largest in the history of copper-mining in the province, amounting, as it does, to 67,757,075 lbs., worth \$18,429,924; the highest previous production was made in 1915.

The production as estimated for 1916, compared with that of the previous year, shows an increase in quantity of 10,838,670 lbs., and in value of \$8,594,424, or 87.4 per cent.

The large increase in quantity of copper produced this year is due to a greatly increased production from the Granby Company's Hidden Creek mine, at Anyox, on Observatory Inlet, to a return to a nearly normal output from the Boundary District, and to a nearly doubled production from the Britannia mine.

The Rossland District is expected to have made a slightly decreased output, due to a smaller tonnage from the Rossland mines, which, in turn, was due to a coke shortage preventing the Trail smelter from operating throughout the year at full capacity.

The big mine and smelter of the Granby Company at Anyox were operated continuously throughout the year, and the tonnage was gradually increased, until, at the end of the year, 2,200 tons a day were being smelted. The Granby Company this year produced from its mines in Skeena and Boundary 59 per cent. of the province's copper production.

Another important producer of copper in the northern portion of the Province is the Rocher Deboile mine, near Hazelton. The production of this mine in 1916 was about 10,000 tons, containing over 1,250,000 lbs. copper.

In the Boundary District the Granby Company's mines at Phoenix and smelter at Grand Forks were operated to nearly full capacity throughout the year, but were slightly handicapped by the coke shortage. A larger tonnage of ore was mined and smelted than in 1915, but the production in