

grown in far greater proportion than is shown by the increase in the collections of duties. At the time British Columbia entered confederation, all goods were imported. Now a very large quantity of goods brought into the province come from other parts of Canada, and consequently displace an equal quantity of goods which otherwise would be imported, and upon which duty would be collected. With the large inter-provincial trade which has grown up during the past few years, one would almost expect a decrease in customs collections, instead of a large increase.

Inland revenue collections during 1889 show a large increase over the previous year. Inland revenue collections at the various points for the year 1889 aggregate \$124,016, as compared with \$107,545 for the previous year. The increase in inland revenue indicates a growing inter-provincial trade.

REMARKABLE EXPORTS.

It is in the figures of exports that British Columbia's trade shows up most prominently. People who rush through the province on the railway, often go away with the idea that the country possesses very little natural wealth. This is a most absurd conclusion, and one which can be refuted by figures which do not lie. Exports from British Columbia will compare favorably with any part of Canada, in proportion to population, and these exports are nearly all made up not of manufactured goods for the production of which the raw material has been imported, but are the natural productions of the country. Exports from British Columbia for the year 1889 foot up a total of \$3,811,511. These figures are the largest ever reached in the history of British Columbia, and for a province with an estimated population in the neighborhood of 75,000, they are really enormous. What portion of Canada or of the continent with a like population, can show such export figures? In the light of these reliable figures, the ideas sometimes expressed that British Columbia is not a valuable country, cannot reasonably be entertained. Following are the export returns for the year 1889, of the principal products of British Columbia.

MINERALS.

Coal exports, 450,000 tons, at \$4.50 per ton.....	\$2,025,000
Gold.....	183,192
Total.....	\$2,513,192

FISHERIES.

Canned salmon, exports, cases, 405, 149.....	\$2,228,319
Fish, in pickle, 3,000 barrels.....	15,009
Seal skins, 35,000.....	245,000
Total value of fisheries.....	\$2,518,319

FURS.

Total shipments	\$ 300,000
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LUMBER.

Exports, 32,000,000 feet.....	\$ 480,000
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Total value of exports.....	\$3,811,511
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COAL MINING.

Coal is one of the principal exports of the province. The coal mines now operated are

principally located on Vancouver Island, in the Nanaimo district. New mines were operated last year at Comox, farther north, on the Island. Other discoveries of coal are being made in different parts of the country. Queen Charlotte Island has very valuable coal deposits, in large quantities, and said to be of a superior quality. These mines have not yet been worked to any extent. The principal export market for the coal is San Francisco, California. The *Victoria Colonist* has the following to say of the coal industry:—

"The coal output of the Vancouver Island mines for 1889, is largely in excess of any previous year. They supply the province and are one of the chief and most valued sources of supply for the San Francisco market. The average price obtained for coal during the year is considerably less than in 1888, but a fair profit has been realized. The Wellington and Vancouver collieries have extended their operations, the former having sunk a new shaft and found abundant coal of superior quality. The New Vancouver Coal Company have prospected extensively during the year and have recently put a shaft down to the famed Wellington seam and found coal of good quality. It is their intention to put this coal on the market during the first week of the new year. The Union Collieries Company have employed a large force of men in opening up their mines at Union Bay, near Comox, the first cargo of which was shipped in the collier *San Mateo* to San Francisco on July 1st. The coal is of a fine quality, of a harder nature than the Wellington coal. Up to the present time the coal has not been found in as extensive quantity as desired. Borings, however, have been made in various parts of the valley, and a good seam located, to which a shaft is now being sunk. A large number of veins of coal have been located, one of twelve inches proving to be excellent blacksmith coal. It is expected that early in the year the property will be opened up sufficiently to permit the mining of a large quantity of coal, the company being under contract to the Southern Pacific Railway Company to furnish to them 2,000 tons of coal per day. From the East Wellington Colliery no particulars have been learned.

The taking out of coal at the four collieries has continued almost uninterruptedly during the year, the only serious accident being the firing of the East Wellington shaft, while at Wellington a threatened strike was warded off by the good management of the late Hon. R. Dunsmuir.

The total output of the mines for the year, estimating that of East Wellington at 35,000, is 548,503 tons, of which the Wellington mines furnished nearly 50 per cent. Placing the value at \$4.50 per ton at the pit mouth, the output represents \$2,468,263. The mines give employment to over 2,300 men.

Following are the returns furnished by the several companies:—

WELLINGTON COLLIERIES.

	TONS.
Foreign shipments	196,510
Home Consumption	70,524
Total.....	267,034
Number of men employed, 900.	

UNION COLLIERIES (6 MOS.)

	TONS.
Foreign Shipments	27,551
Home Consumption	100
Total	27,651
Number of men employed, 450.	

NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO.

	TONS.
Foreign Shipments	179,953
Home Consumption.....	38,000
Total.....	218,918
Number of men employed, 845.	

EAST WELLINGTON COLLIERIES.

	TONS.
Foreign Shipments (estimated).....	35,000

Grand Total 548,503

The output for the year is most satisfactory, but it was expected that the Union mines would have made a better showing. However, with the increased facilities for getting out coal at the Wellington and Vancouver collieries and the assured improvement at the Union, it is expected that the coal yield for 1890 will exceed that of 1889 by from 25 to 50 per cent."

OTHER MINERALS.

The gold dust shipments of British Columbia for the year 1889 show an increase of \$15,751,47 over last year, the figures given by Wells, Fargo & Co., of Victoria, in 1888 being \$472,442,15, and in 1889 \$488,193,62. Enquiry shows, however, that the increase is more apparent than real. In former years the gold sent out of the province for assay was not considered among exports. This year it was. The fact then is that the gold mines are the only sources of natural wealth which yearly show a decrease. The gold export has actually been a little less every year. The decline in exports of gold dust has been going on for some years, and is due to the washing out of placer diggings and the decreased attention given to this kind of mining. But British Columbia has made a good beginning, during 1889, in entering upon a new era of mineral development. It may now be said that an era of quartz mining has fairly set in, which will certainly lead to greater things than could be expected from placer mining in its palmiest days. The first attempts to establish smelters were made last year. A large smelter has recently been constructed at Revelstoke, and is all ready for operation. It should accomplish great things in aiding the development of the mineral districts of the interior. Revelstoke is on the Canadian Pacific railway, at the second crossing of the Columbia river, going west, and is a promising place. The establishing of a smelter at Vancouver was also undertaken, by an English company, but owing to lack of funds the work was not successfully completed, though a large amount of money was expended in the enterprise. It is understood a local company is now in a position to complete the work. The provincial government has also established reduction works at Barkerville, in the old and far west Cariboo district. British Columbia is nothing if not a mineral country, and now that quartz mining has been fairly commenced, the possibilities of the future are illimitable. Of this industry the *Colonist* recently said:—

"The quartz industry of the province has made most gratifying progress during the past