

LEAD MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Particulars of Operations in 1907.

L EAD MINING in British Columbia in 1907 is dealt with in the following review, which was prepared for the *Nelson Daily News* by a contributor well informed on this subject and consequently qualified to give particulars of the progress made in this branch of metalliferous mining during the year under notice.

PRODUCTION OF LEAD IN 1907.

With moderate estimate for December production, the output for the year will be:

	Lb.
Smelted by Hall M. & S. Co.....	6,329,248
Smelted by Consolidated M. & S. Co...	21,686,078
All other smelters	10,631,036
Exported in ore to U. S. and Europe...	7,900,990

Total lb..... 46,547,352

This is equal to 23,273½ tons.

The production in 1906 was 26,389 tons, being somewhat more than 3,000 tons in excess of the estimate for the present year.

The chief shipping mines were: St. Eugene, Sullivan, La Plata, North Star, Silver Cup (Ferguson Mines, Ltd.), Whitewater, Whitewater Deep, Rambler-Cariboo, Lone Bachelor, Lightning Peak, Lorna Doone, Last Chance, Richmond, Spokane, Trinket, Vancouver, Arlington (Erie), Arlington (Slocan), Colonial, Sunset, Idaho, American Boy, Beatrice, California, Emerald, Maestro, Payne, Black Diamond, Montezuma, Queen Bess, Standard, Reco, Tecumseh, Adams Group, Emily Edith, Fergus, Gallagher, Mountain Con., Mammoth group, Flint, Province, Hartney group, Libby, Wakefield.

The price of lead in the London market ruled exceptionally high, in the neighbourhood of £20, for ten months of the year, reaching a maximum of £21 5s. on June 14. In November it fell rapidly and on December 16 reached a minimum of £13, a fall since followed by a reaction to £14 12s. 6d. per long ton.

The Dominion bounty was quiescent from April 25, 1906, to December 2, 1907, when fractional payments began to be made and these at times since have reached 64 cents per 100 lb., the bounty operating practically as a guarantee that the price of lead to the producer will not fall below £16 per long ton.

With present range of prices it is probable that bounty disbursements for the seven months remaining of the period will aggregate \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The lead stacks of the Hall Mines smelter at Nelson were blown out on September 16, and are still idle.

About 400 tons of lead, practically the amount produced in excess of the requirements for Canadian consumption, has been exported in ore. The bulk of this has gone to Europe.

With the recent marked decline of London prices, exports have ceased.

The price of silver has steadily fallen throughout the year, a recent quotation having been 52½ cents. As lead is but a by-product of high-grade mines, including most of those in the Slocan and Lardeau, the price of silver is the decisive factor in the question of their operation.

The decision of the United States board of appraisers to whom was appealed the ruling of the secretary of the treasury in regard to duty on zinc ores, which was that "Silicate and carbonate of zinc shall henceforth be classified as calamine, and may be imported free into the United States," is still nominally in force, but an appeal having been taken therefrom, the deposit of duty, subject to final decision of the point involved, is required by the United States customs authorities, and this circumstance operates to shut off nearly altogether such shipments for the time being.

The smelter of the Canadian Metal Company at Frank has not been in operation within a year.

A plant for the treatment of zinc ores by an electrical process is under construction at Nelson by a company represented by Robert Irving and Frederick T. Snyder, M.E. The successful operation of this plant will be of great value to the mining districts tributary to Kootenay Lake, in which many mines are found, incapable of profitable working except by some system under which the value of zinc contents can be recovered.

SOME LEAD-PRODUCING MINES.

Aside from the St. Eugene and the Sullivan mines, which are apparently capable of keeping up their present high rate of production for many years to come, the mines that have attracted some attention during the year as silver-lead producers are the La Plata, under the management of Bruce White; the Whitewater and Whitewater Deep, under the management of John L. Retallack; the Ferguson mines, George Alexander, manager, and the Rambler-Cariboo, captained by W. E. Zwicky. In the last-mentioned the workings connecting the long tunnel with the old workings above were completed early in the year, and the mine is now reported to be in fine shape for heavy shipments when the price of metals shall be favourable.

The historic Blue Bell on, Kootenay Lake, has undergone, at the hands of S. S. Fowler, thorough rejuvenation and is understood to be prepared for the production of a large tonnage of silver-lead and zinc ores.

The Vancouver mine, in Silverton camp, now under lease to the Le Roi No. 2 Company, has been a heavy shipper of high-grade ore.

The old Montezuma mine and mill, on the south fork of Kaslo Creek, has been rehabilitated and operated during the year by Henry Geigerich and has made considerable shipments of concentrates of good grade.

The Lucky Jim, at Bear Lake, has had much de-