

In the previous year, 1863, at Goldstream, near Victoria, several companies had engaged in working quartz veins with indifferent success. With this exception lode mining is of comparatively recent date.* Dr. Dawson† notices the "premature quartz excitement of 1877 and 1878" in Cariboo, yet as he states,‡ it was not till 1886, after the discovery, in Kootenay, of a group of mineral deposits on Toad Mountain, near Nelson, that the development of lode mining, as it at present exists, began. But so small was the industry that the total value of its output so late as 1893 only amounted to \$297,400; after that date, however, it rapidly increased, and last year amounted to \$13,683,044.¶

Silver was first officially reported as existing, in Lillooet, by Mr. J. W. Mackay in his report of October 2nd, 1858, to Governor Douglas,§ and was also mentioned by Lieut. Richard C. Mayne, R.N., in May, 1859,* but its existence was first authentically established by Charles Forbes, M.D., of H.M.S. "Topaze," who, by direction of Governor Douglas, reported in October, 1860, on the minerals of the country bordering upon Harrison Lake and Lillooet, and found and examined many argentiferous veins as shown on the map and geological sections accompanying his report.**

Coal was first discovered in 1835, on the north-east coast of Vancouver Island, doubtless at Suquamish, specimens being brought in that year by the Indians to Dr. W. F. Tolmie, then stationed at the Hudson's Bay Company's post, Fort McLoughlin, on Milbank Sound,†† and used in the following year by the first steamer on the coast—the *Beaver*. "The coal at Nanaimo was first discovered by Mr. Joseph

* MacFie, *supra*, p. 155.

† *Supra*, p. 56n.

‡ *Ib.* p. 60n., also Journal of Roy. Col. Institute for April, 1893, p. 336.

§ Report of B. C. Minister of Mines, *supra*, p. 921. It is a fitting place to note here the dates of location, or record, of some of the earliest mineral claims in the vicinity of Kootenay Lake, as follows:—The "Blue Bell" was located on July 31, 1882; the "Kootenay Chief" on October 5, 1882; the "Comfort" on October 6, 1882; and the "Lulu" was recorded on October 6, 1882. The "Silver King" on Toad Mountain was located on July 6, 1887.

§ Papers Relative to the Affairs of B. C., House of Commons Return, 1859, Part II, p. 31.

* *Ib.*, Part III, p. 33.

** *Ib.*, Part IV, p. 32, and cf. Dawson, *supra*, p. 55n.

†† Dawson, *supra*.