

Annual Review of Mining in British Columbia.

By E. JACOBS.*

A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE in value of the mineral production of British Columbia in 1906 as compared with that of 1905 appears to be the satisfactory result of the year's mining and smelting operations. The estimated total of \$26,357,115 for the former year gives a net increase of \$3,895,790 over that immediately preceding. As 1905 made a gain of \$3,483,930 over 1904, it is evident that the mining industry of the Province has assumed much more important proportions than those of four or five years ago, the increase in value over the totals of 1902 and 1903, respectively, being fully 50 per cent.

While much of the marked increase in value in 1906 over the production of 1905 is attributable to enhanced average prices for metals in the former year, the fact should not be lost sight of that with the exception of lead and zinc, production of which was unfavourably influenced by conditions believed to be but temporary in their diminishing effects, the quantities of minerals produced were larger, gold, silver, copper, and coal all exhibiting a greater production than in 1905. Indeed lode gold, copper, and coal each reached a total quantity higher than that shown in the official records of any previous year. This is a decidedly satisfactory position for the mining industry of the Province to be in, albeit it is but the natural result to be looked for with prices of metals ruling high and with a reasonable prospect of their continuing so for the greater part of the ensuing year. The outlook for a further increase in the production of coal is also promising, the demand being much in excess of the supply, but with little likelihood of a change in the situation until after the close of the winter, if then.

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION IN TEN YEARS.

The totals of mineral production in British Columbia during ten years, 1897-1906 provide an object lesson to which, in the interests of the mining industry of the Province, too much prominence cannot be given, so they follow:

Year.	Total Value.
1897	\$ 10,455,268
1898	10,906,861
1899	12,393,131
1900	16,344,751
1901	20,086,780
1902	17,486,550
1903	17,495,594
1904	18,977,359
1905	22,461,325
1906 (estimated).....	26,357,115

Total for ten years.....\$172,964,734

In calculating the values of the several minerals to obtain the totals for 1906 shown in the next following table, placer gold has been taken as worth \$20 per oz.; lode gold, \$20.67; silver, 66.791 cents (less 5 per cent); copper, 19.278 cents per lb.; lead, 5.75 (less 10 per cent); zinc, roughly estimated at \$15 per ton; coal taken at \$3 per ton of 2,240 lb., and coke at \$5. Silver, copper and lead values are the average prices for the year, according to the *New York Engineering and Mining Journal*.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION IN 1905 AND 1906.

The respective totals of value of minerals produced in 1905 and 1906 (the latter estimated) are as under:

	1905	1906
Gold, placer.....	\$ 969,300	\$ 920,000
Gold, lode.....	4,933,102	5,167,500
Total gold.....	\$5,902,402	\$6,087,500
Silver	1,971,818	2,201,765
Copper	5,876,222	8,675,100
Lead	2,399,022	2,742,750
Zinc	139,200	60,000
Total metalliferous....	\$16,288,664	\$19,767,115
Coal	\$4,152,936	\$4,590,000
Coke	1,358,925	1,050,000
Building materials, etc....	660,800	950,000
Total non-metalliferous.	\$6,172,661	\$6,590,000
Summary—		
Metalliferous	\$16,288,664	\$19,767,115
Non-metalliferous	6,172,661	6,590,000

Total production.....\$22,461,325 \$26,357,115
QUANTITIES OF MINERALS PRODUCED IN 1905 AND 1906.

The quantities of minerals produced in 1905 and, approximately, those in 1906, were as under:

	1905	1906
Gold, placer.....Oz.	48,465	46,000
Gold, lode.....Oz.	238,660	250,000
Total gold.....Oz.	287,125	296,000
Silver	Oz. 3,439,417	3,470,000
Copper	Lb.37,692,251	45,000,000
Lead	Lb.56,580,703	53,000,000
Zinc	Tons. 9,413	4,000
Coal.....Tons of 2,240 lb.	1,384,312	1,530,000
Coke.....Tons of 2,240 lb.	271,785	210,000

By far the greater part of the increase for the year just closed was made by copper, which not only had the assistance of an advance in average price of about 3 2-3 cents per lb., but was produced to the extent of about 7,300,000 lb. more than in 1905. Lode gold, silver, coal and building materials, etc.,

*Editor B. C. MINING RECORD.