

regions on the coast also came into prominence. By the year 1894 the production of lode mines exceeded in value the total yield of placer gold.

Meanwhile coal was assuming a growingly important position. Prior to 1898 the Vancouver Island collieries produced all the coal mined in the province. In that year the Crow's Nest Pass began to produce. The erection and operation of coke ovens by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company at Fernie has brought up the output of that commodity to the considerable annual amount of 222,913 tons.

In the near future British Columbia will produce much more coal. New collieries are about to be operated at Hosmer in the south-east, in Nicola Valley, and on Vancouver Island. The Cassiar District also will make large contributions.

With this brief foreword, we shall glance over the different branches of the mining industry.

COAL.

Whilst there is soon to be a number of additions to the list of producing collieries, there are large coal-bearing areas in British Columbia that cannot be developed until transportation facilities have been provided. These will receive more specific mention later on.

The producing coal mines during 1907 were: The Crow's Nest Pass collieries in the Rocky Mountain coal field, in the south-eastern section of the province; the Western Fuel Company's collieries at Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island; the Wellington Colliery Company's mines at Extension and Comox on the same island, and the Middlesboro Colliery in the Nicola Valley.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, incorporated in 1897 with an authorized capital of \$3,500,000, owns in fee simple about 250,000 acres of land in the Crow's Nest district. Its holdings include a large area of coal lands on the east side of Elk River, one of the streams draining East Kootenay. Operations were started in 1897, and railway connections completed late in 1898. The Coal Creek Colliery, the first opened, is about five miles east of Fernie, a vigorous town that has grown up with the Company. Other mines at Michel, 23 miles to the north, and at Morrissey Creek, 13 miles south, were opened later.

At Coal Creek colliery there are four seams, the largest of which is 30 feet wide. Six mines are working here. At Michel four mines were in operation during 1907. Here there are eight seams. At Morrissey Creek (Carbonado colliery) the mines, which were idle for a time, are being opened up again. There are here five seams.

Both "pillar and stall" and "long-wall" methods of mining are in vogue. There is main haulage both by electric locomotives and by the main-and-tail ropes. Secondary haulage is generally by either electric or compressed air hoists.

Of the 876,731 long tons of coal produced by the Company in 1907, there was used in the manufacture of coke 322,870 tons, yielding 206,541 tons. The coke is used largely in south-eastern British Columbia and partly in the