

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold, placer, ozs.	48,505	\$ 970,100	53,657	\$ 1,073,140
" lode, ozs.	210,384	4,384,603	236,491	4,888,269
Silver, ozs.	5,151,333	2,884,745	3,917,917	1,941,328
Copper, lbs.	27,603,746	4,446,963	29,636,057	3,446,673
Lead, lbs.	51,582,906	2,002,733	22,536,381	824,832
Coal, long tons.	1,460,331	4,380,993	1,397,394	4,192,182
Coke, long tons.	127,081	635,405	128,015	640,075
Other materials	417,238	480,051
		\$20,086,780		\$17,486,550

This falling off in total values is disappointing when compared with the distinct advance made in each of several previous years since 1898 as appears below:

	Value.	Increase.
Total production in 1898.....	\$10,906,861	\$ 457,503
" " " 1899.....	12,393,131	1,486,270
" " " 1900.....	16,344,751	3,951,620
" " " 1901.....	20,086,780	3,742,029
" " " 1902.....	17,486,550	— 2,600,230

The decrease in total value of last year's production is largely due, the report states, to the lower market values of the various metals, for were the year's output calculated at prices prevailing in 1901 the shortage would be but \$965,742 instead of \$2,600,230, as shown. The tonnage of ore mined was, however, greater and in this connection the following table may be found of interest, for purposes of comparison:—

	Gold Produced in 1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Gold, placer (ozs.).....	32,167	67,425	63,936	48,505	53,657
Gold, lode (ozs.).....	110,061	138,315	167,153	210,384	236,491
Silver (ozs.).....	4,292,401	2,939,413	3,997,080	5,151,333	3,917,917
Copper (lbs.).....	7,271,678	7,722,591	9,997,080	27,603,746	29,636,057
Lead (lbs.).....	31,693,559	21,862,436	63,358,621	51,582,906	22,536,381
Coal (long tons).....	1,135,865	1,306,326	1,439,595	1,460,331	1,397,394
Coke (long tons).....	35,000	34,251	85,149	127,081	128,015

It will be seen that in both placer and lode gold, in copper, and in coke, there was last year an increase in the quantity produced, and that the decrease in coal was comparatively small. There was though, a large decrease in the production of silver, and a still larger shortage in lead. To this decrease in quantity together with the considerable shrinkage in average values for the year is directly traceable the seeming retrograde movement in the mining industry.

The comments of the Provincial Mineralogist on the situation assign reasons for this temporary check in progress. He observes, in part: The progress made by the mining industry of the Province, has during the year 1902, been less marked than usual. If the statistics of production alone are considered, it would appear that no advance has been made, as the gross value of the mineral production of 1902 is less than that of the preceding year, the first time that such a thing has happened since lode mining became an industry of the Province. While it is necessary to face this fact, it is also necessary to learn to what causes the fact is attributable, whether such causes are per-

manent or temporary, and whether they are removable or not. The diminished production is not due to any failure in the mines themselves, for no widespread failure has occurred, and, as a matter of fact, the mines are in a better condition than they were a year ago. The adverse conditions affecting the output appear to have been different in the various branches of the industry, but, as is the way with misfortunes, they came not singly.

"The placer mines showed in 1902 an increased production over the previous year of about 1-2 per cent. This is an exceedingly good showing, but it is not nearly as good as it would have been had not the rainfall for the year been exceptionally light, causing a shortage of water supply, which sadly diminished the output of the hydraulic mining companies. This shortage of water is, however, only a temporary trouble, and should disappear with another year.

"In the coal mining branch of the industry, the Coast collieries have had their principal market, California, invaded by fuel oil produced in the State itself, and yet, although this competition has come upon them suddenly, they have been able to dispose of within 8 per cent. as much coal as last year, and a greater

amount than in any year previous to 1901. The Crow's Nest collieries had an unlimited market open to them, but were met with, first, an explosion which crippled their principal mine, followed by strikes which diminished the output, causing the production for the year to be only about half what it should have been, and undoubtedly will be next year. Despite all this, the coal industry about holds its own, but, like the 'placer,' did not make that advance which the conditions of the mines and market would have justified.

"The lode mining of the Province has been the branch most sorely beset, and this not owing to any failure of the mines themselves, but to the unprecedentedly low market price of metals which has prevailed during the entire year, beginning, as it did, in the last month of 1901, while it is only in the early months of 1903 that the market has begun to recover. To realize what this drop in the market really was, it is necessary to make a direct comparison, as follows:—

"Taking the average value for the whole of each year of the various metals, as quoted on the New York Metal Exchange, we find: