

DOMINION OF CANADA ASSAY OFFICE.

Gold Receipts at Vancouver in 1907-8.

THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION dollars was the value of the gold bullion received at the Dominion of Canada Assay Office at Vancouver, B.C., during the fiscal year ended March 31, last. The official report of the chief assayer, Mr. J. B. Farquhar, was included in the "Summary Report of the Mines Branch" of the Canada Department of Mines, lately published, from which extracts have been made, as follows:

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1908, 46,540.25 oz. of bullion, valued at \$751,693.97, were received and assayed. These deposits were derived from the following sources:—

Source.	Deposits.		Value.
	No.	Oz.	
Yukon	70	9,108.12	\$150,592 21
British Columbia ..	396	34,347.69	553,458 53
N. W. Territories..	2	67.14	1,054 37
Ontario	2	36.23	393 25
Alaska	12	2,981.07	45,835 61
	482	46,540.25	\$751,693 97

Weight before melting..... 46,540.25

Weight after melting..... 45,405.85

Loss by melting 1,134.40

Loss percentage by melting..... 2.4374

The following table shows the business done by the Assay Office since its establishment:—

Fiscal Year.	Deposits.		Value.
	No.	Oz.	
1901-2	671	69,925.67	\$1,153,014.50
1902-3	509	36,295.69	568,888.19
1903-4	381	24,516.36	385,152.00
1904-5	443	29,573.73	462,939.75
1905-6	345	21,050.83	337,820.59
1906-7 (9 mo.)..	269	20,695.84	336,675.65
1907-8	482	46,540.25	751,693.97
Total	248,598.37		\$3,996,184.65

The following is a statement of appropriation, receipts and expenditure for the year ended March 31, 1908, and shows the unexpected balance to be \$5,236.66.

	Appropriation.	Expenditure.
Appropriation 1907-08.....	\$16,000.00	
Miscellaneous receipts	1,547.41	
Difference between amount paid and received for bullion	945.63	
Rent account		\$2,100.00
Fuel account		322.51
Power and light		139.51
Postage and telegrams.....		86.76
Telephone		66.20
Express charges		629.92

Assayers' supplies	250.50	
Printing and stationery.....	53.28	
Premium on bonds	570.00	
Contingencies	108.51	
Salaries and wages	8,929.19	
Balance	5,236.66	
	<u>\$18,493.04</u>	<u>\$18,493.04</u>

Proposed New Assay Building.

The rent paid for the building occupied by the Dominion of Canada Assay Office in Vancouver, B.C.—since its establishment in 1901, is as follows:—

July, 1901, to July, 1906, at \$1,200 per annum.

July, 1906, to July, 1908, at \$2,100 per annum.

Present lease for 17 months from July 1, 1908, at \$2,700 per annum.

During the seven years of occupancy the rent has increased 125 per cent.

In view of this high rental, it was deemed advisable to take a lease for 17 months only, and I strongly recommend that, in the meantime, steps be taken to establish the Assay Office in permanent quarters, by the purchase of a suitable lot, and the erection of a properly designed fire-proof building.

Proposed Transfer of Gold to the Royal Mint at Ottawa.

When the original plans for the Royal Mint of Canada were prepared, I recommended in a memorandum to the Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance—under date November 5, 1901—that provision be made for a refinery in connection with same. This suggestion was based upon the following reasons: (1) That there are no refineries in Canada. (2) That the only available bullion coming to the Mint from Canadian sources, would be unparted bars from the assay offices of the Dominion: representing gold dust and nuggets from the gold bearing districts: averaging 725 fine, and containing silver, copper, and other base metals. (3) That this alloyed bullion would have to be sent to the refineries of either the United States or Great Britain for conversion into fine bars suitable for coinage. (4) That this plan would prove to be very inconvenient, if not impracticable; hence the proposed establishment of a refinery at Ottawa. This recommendation is now to be carried out, and instead of the unparted bars of gold from the Dominion Assay Office in Vancouver, B.C., being sold to the Seattle Refinery of the United States government, I recommend that this bullion be—in the near future—transferred to the proposed refinery in connection with the Royal Mint at Ottawa.

(Note—Since the date of the recommendation above mentioned a refinery has been established in connection with smelting works at Trail, now owned by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, and refined gold and silver has been, and is obtainable therefrom.—Editor MINING RECORD.)