Work on the *Hot Punch* and *Black Diamond* properties was discontinued owing to financial difficulties of the leasing companies. Neither are in shape as yet to make much production, but these and several other properties in the district could possibly be operated by leasers in a small way at a profit.

The characteristic ore-bodies of the district are small veins carrying pockets and shoots of silver-lead-zinc ore, often carrying grey-copper and being quite rich.

The *Paradise* mine, on Toby creek—at one time a considerable shipper—was examined by the Consolidated Company, but no work was done on it.

Placer-mining.—It was reported that better returns from placer-gold mining on various streams in Fort Steele Division were obtained in 1915 than for several previous years. The value of the gold recovered has been estimated at $10,000.

COAL-MINING.

Two coal companies operated in the Crowsnest coalfield in 1915—namely, the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and the Corbin Coal and Coke Company. The first-mentioned company worked eight mines at its Coal Creek Colliery and four at its Michel Colliery. Its gross output of coal was estimated at 797,010 tons, as compared with 778,403 tons in 1914; there was, consequently, an increase last year over 1914 of 18,607 tons. About 397,000 tons was made into coke, leaving a net production of rather more than 400,000 tons of coal, against 482,000 tons in 1914. The increased output of coke, however, more than compensated for the decrease in coal sold as such, for there was made in 1914 only 199,866 tons of coke, as compared with an estimated quantity of 239,178 tons in 1915, the increase for last year thus being 39,312 tons. The completion of a permanent air-course for No. 1 East mine and the installation of an endless-rope haulage system, to deliver coal from inside this mine right to the central tipple, were the chief features of progress at the Coal Creek Colliery. At the Michel Colliery the most noteworthy work done during the year was that in connection with the redevelopment of No. 8 seam above the old No. 8 workings that were sealed off on account of fire. It is stated that the extension of coal-producing operations into the large field the new No. 8 has entered constitutes one of the most important recent developments at the Michel Colliery.

At both collieries large new coal areas have been opened, and it is claimed that the company's mines are now in such effective working condition as would admit of 5,000 to 6,000 tons of coal a day being produced were there a demand for that quantity.

COKE-MAKING.

Since the closing of the Hosmer Company's ovens in 1914 the only coke-making [illegible]ations carried on in this district are those at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Com[illegible] ovens at Fernie and Michel respectively. Coke made by this company finds [illegible]ef market at the smelters in Boundary District and at Trail, in West Koote[illegible]th in British Columbia. A much smaller demand from the United States is [illegible] after requirements of smelting-works in the Province have been met.

It is worthy of mention that of a total of approximately 3,350,000 tons of coke made in British Columbia in all years to the end of 1915, about 2,902,000 tons was made at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's ovens.

WEST KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

The importance of West Kootenay District as a metalliferous-mining region will be evident when it is stated that the total value of its mineral production during the last five years, 1911-1915, has exceeded $31,000,000, or an average of approximately $6,270,000 a year for that period. Its metalliferous products are gold, silver, lead, copper, and zinc, which constitute all the metals of commercial importance produced in the Province. Its most productive mining camp is Rossland, in Trail Creek Division, the gross value of the mineral production of which, for the twenty-two years mining has been in active progress there, has now reached a total of