

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTER OF MINES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

The annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia for the year 1906 has been published. It is later than usual, the Bureau of Mines for that Province having previously for several years been able to distribute its annual report a month to two months earlier than this year. The delay has been occasioned by the press of work in the Provincial Government Printing Office, which for some time past has had its work greatly increased by the very considerable enlargement of the official *Gazette*.

The report under notice is similar in size and general character to those issued by the Mines Department for a number of years. Its statistics of quantity and value of mineral production show the output of 1906—which was a record year as regards both quantity and total value of the mineral products—and, too, for purposes of comparison, that of all years from the time production was commenced in the Province. These tables have been carefully prepared and arranged in such form as to clearly convey information relative to the steady expansion of the mineral industry of British Columbia from the time it was of comparatively small proportions until now, when its total for the year of approximately \$25,000,000 is about 31 per cent. of the mineral production, metalliferous and non-metalliferous, of the whole Dominion in 1906.

The reports of gold commissioners and mining recorders appear to have been reduced to what is of general interest concerning their respective districts. Those of other district officials in like manner have been kept within reasonable limits. The special reports of the Provincial Mineralogist and Provincial Assayer are properly of greater length. That of the Provincial Mineralogist, descriptive of his exploratory trip through the Peace River country, dealing as it does with an extensive region that it may be expected will within two or three years be thrown open for settlement, is of particular value and interest and will doubtless be widely read. The numerous illustrations of places and scenes in that outlying country enhance the value of the report and serve as useful object lessons to those desirous of learning something of the big new district in Northeastern British Columbia that will probably become settled ere many years pass.

A new feature in the report is the list of metalliferous mines shipping in 1906. Arranged according to districts, and showing location, name and address of agent or owner, and the class of ore produced by the numerous shipping mines, this list will be useful to many. It has been prepared following the frequent receipt by the Bureau of Mines of applications for information of this nature.

The half-tone reproductions of photographs merit especial commendation. The excellent work of Mr. Wm. H. Clark, foreman of the Government Printing Office pressroom, has again given very creditable results in this connection. Diagrams, maps, etc., have also been effectively used for purposes of illustration. A comprehensive index completes the report, which, as in former years, has been prepared under the direction of Mr. Wm. Fleet Robertson, Provincial Mineralogist.

Some of the statistical tables, with official comments thereon, follow:—

TABLE I.—TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR ALL YEARS TO 1906,

INCLUSIVE.

Gold, placer	\$ 68,721,103
Gold, lode	41,015,697
Total gold	\$109,736,800
Silver	25,586,008
Lead	17,625,739
Copper	35,546,578
Coal and coke	79,334,798
Building stone, bricks, etc...	5,543,700
Other metals	270,099

Total production, all years..\$273,643,722

This table shows the total gross value of each mineral product that has been mined in the Province up to the end of 1906. From this it will be seen that coal mining has produced more than any other separate class of mining—a total of \$79,334,798—followed next in importance by placer gold at \$68,721,103, and third by lode gold at \$41,015,697. The metal gold, derived from both placer and lode mining, amounts to \$109,736,800, the greatest amount derived from any one metal or mineral, the next most important year being copper, of a total gross value of \$35,546,578, followed by silver at \$25,586,008, and lead at \$17,625,739.

TABLE II.—PRODUCTION FOR EACH YEAR FROM 1890 TO 1906 (INCLUSIVE).

1852 to 1890 (inclusive)	\$ 71,981,634
1890	2,608,803
1891	3,521,102
1892	2,978,530
1893	3,588,413
1894	4,225,717
1895	5,643,042
1896	7,507,950
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	17,495,954
1904	18,977,359
1905	22,461,325
1906	24,980,546

Total production, all years..\$273,643,722

This table shows the values of the total production of the mines of the Province for each year from 1890 to 1906, during which period the output has increased nearly tenfold, having reached a production for the year past valued at \$24,980,546, or more than double what it was in 1899.