

The Reports of the Resident Engineers of B. C.

By E. Jacobs.

The Annual Report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia for the calendar year 1917, issued recently, includes the following official comment:

"During the session of 1917 the Hon. the Minister of Mines brought in the 'Mineral Survey and Development Act,' which was passed on May 19, 1917, and under the provisions of which the Province was divided into six Mineral Districts, to each of which there was appointed a Resident Engineer with headquarters at a centrally located point in such district.

"In the district to which he was appointed the Resident Engineer is expected to devote his whole time to the performance of the duties of his office, and to carry on continuously a mineral survey of his district, keeping records of the same, and of the mining and mineral developments taking place, and at the same time to assist prospectors and others with such advice as may be necessary and may come within the scope of a mining engineer's work.

"Aside from special reports which may be called for by the Minister, the Resident Engineers are expected annually to make a comprehensive report covering all matters relating to mining, mine development, and prospecting that have occurred within the year in their respective districts.

"These annual reports of the Resident Engineers are given later in this general report, and form the basis of the information given in respect to the mineral industry and its development within the Province.

"As the Resident Engineers did not take office until the season of 1917 was well advanced, and as the work was new to many of them, their reports are not as complete or comprehensive as they probably will be next year."

The value of mineral production in 1917, and the total value for three years 1915-1917 as shown in the last Annual Report, were as under:

VALUE OF PRODUCTION, 1917

District	Metallic	Non-metallic	Total
No. 1—Northwestern.....	\$8,405,696	79,742	\$8,485,438
No. 2—Northeastern.....	525,641	4,256	529,897
No. 3—Central.....	333,822	540,791	874,613
No. 4—Southern.....	4,191,960	62,005	4,253,965
No. 5—Eastern.....	8,970,491	2,058,836	11,029,327
No. 6—Western.....	4,856,864	6,980,288	11,837,152
Totals.....	\$27,284,474	\$9,725,918	\$37,010,392

TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION FOR THREE YEARS, 1915-1917.

District	Metallic	Non-metallic	Total
No. 1—Northwestern.....	\$19,968,211	\$149,164	\$20,117,375
No. 2—Northeastern.....	2,178,300	15,256	2,193,556
No. 3—Central.....	737,084	1,326,252	2,063,336
No. 4—Southern.....	15,681,912	188,679	15,870,591
No. 5—Eastern.....	30,195,649	8,709,138	38,904,787
No. 6—Western.....	11,348,981	18,249,736	29,598,717
Totals.....	\$80,110,137	\$28,638,225	\$108,748,362

The various mining divisions included in the several Mineral Survey Districts are:

In No. 1—Northwestern District—Atlin, Stikine, Liard, Skeena, Portland Canal, Bella Coola, and Queen Charlotte.

In No. 2—Northeastern District—Omineca, Peace River, Cariboo, and Quesnel.

In No. 3—Central District—Clinton, Lillooet, Kamloops, Ashcroft, Nicola, Vernon, and Yale.

In No. 4—Southern District—Similkameen, Osoyoos, Greenwood, and Grand Forks.

In No. 5—Eastern District—Golden, Windermere, Fort Steele, Ainsworth, Slocan, Slocan City, Trout Lake, Nelson, Arrow Lake, Revelstoke, Lardeau, and Trail Creek (Rossland).

In No. 6—Western District—Nanaimo, Alberni, Clayoquot, Quatsino, Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster.

The Northwestern District.

The report of the Resident Engineer for the Northwestern District may be fairly adjudged the best-balanced and generally the most commendable of the lot. It is an excellent report, giving prominence to the most important things, wasting little or no space on unimportant ones, and treating briefly, but sufficiently, with regions and properties of promise. Where there was no opportunity to visit an important part of the district, as in the case of the Atlin gold field, a summary of results was obtained from the district Gold Commissioner, and included in the report. Bibliography and lengthy disquisitions on geology are left out, and instead useful general information is given, so that prospectors and miners are not confused by much technical detail. Most space is given to the important copper mining and smelting enterprise established in the district by the Granby Consolidated Co., the incorporation in the report of a comprehensive description—fully authentic since written by one of the company's prominent officials—being timely and of particular value to those desirous of knowing what progress has been and is being made by that company in that part of the province. Further, the mention of the company's exploration work and prospecting activities on Klekane inlet, Gibson island, Ecstall river, Portland canal, Bear river, and elsewhere, in its search for new mines, indicates the extending enterprise of this company.

The account given of the gold-mining property of the Belmont-Surf Inlet Mines, on Princess Royal island, is also of much interest. The mine, concentrator, hydro-electric power system, and plant and equipment generally are described, and the importance of this recent addition to the gold producing mines of the Provinces made clear.

The considerably improved outlook for the Portland Canal mining division is shown in the valuable information given relating to the Georgia River and the Salmon-Bear River mines; attention is directed to promising magnetite properties on Seymour inlet; information accounting for the delay in shipment of ore from Alice arm of Observatory inlet, from which a considerable production has been expected, is supplied; and summaries of the situation in various other parts of the district are also included in the report.

The illustrations in the general report that have relation to this district all have a practical bearing on matters dealt with in the text. The sketch map of the Salmon River district in Portland Canal division, is informative and useful, while the plans and views of the Granby Consolidated Co.'s properties—some of which should have appeared in the 1916 report, since many photographs were available early in that year—serve to impress those who have not visited Anyox or the Hidden Creek mine with the extent of the company's operations and the substantial character of its mining and smelting undertakings.

It is a pity that errors in figures occur. On one page, it is stated, in the Engineer's report that "the district in 1917 produced 822,819 tons, of which 784,000 tons was mined and smelted by the Granby Company, of Anyox,