

ments are published in the Report of the Minister of Mines for the information of the assayers of the Province. The care of the Provincial Mineral Museum and the duties of secretary to the Board of Examiners in assaying also devolve upon the Provincial Assayer, whose periodical review of the work of his department will be read with much interest, both in the Province and elsewhere, by many qualified to appreciate its value.

The Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for the year 1903 was issued last month. It contains a large amount of information relative to the mining industry of British Columbia, and constitutes a valuable record of mining and smelting operations, of progress made, and of the condition generally of the industry. The various statistical tables, the preparation of which involves much careful work, are most useful, supplying as they do exhaustive and reliable information, presented in such form as to make quite clear the respective proportions of the several minerals produced, and the fluctuations in production year by year. For purposes of comparison, too, figures are given in such manner as to make plainly evident in the production of which particular minerals this Province leads. The comments of the Provincial Mineralogist under the respective headings of "Progress of Mining" and "General Developments of the Year" forcibly direct attention to the leading features of the year's work and the results attained. These comments, made with a fuller knowledge of the actual facts of the situation than can be obtained by anyone not having similar access to the confidential reports and sworn statements of mine managers and others, possess an especial value, and since they carry considerable weight it is well that, besides narrating the results attained, as indicated by the statistics, they show that improved methods of mining and ore-treatment have already been or are being adopted, and that, as a consequence, mining and smelting operations may be expected to return more profit than under earlier and less favourable conditions. The special reports of the Provincial Mineralogist on the mining camps and districts he visited last year, particularly the one on the valley of the Flathead River, South-East Kootenay (reproduced in full in this month's MINING RECORD), will be read by many seeking an unbiased and competent opinion thereon. The official reports of Gold Commissioners and Mining Recorders appear to be, on the whole, more in keeping with the high standard looked for in the report of an important department; indeed several of them are very creditable, and their value has been much enhanced by the occasional introduction of notes by the Provincial Mineralogist supplying mining or smelting costs, information relative to reduction processes, or other relevant and useful information. The illustrations are unusually good for an official report. The sketch map of the coal and oil district of South-East Kootenay will be of service to many. Altogether, the Report is, in our opinion, the best the Department of Mines has issued.

and it should prove effective in advertising the mineral resources of the Province.

The New York *Engineering and Mining Journal*, in a recently-published review of the world's copper production, points out that the new sources of copper supply opened in the past two or three years are all in North America, and mentions that the mines of the Boundary district of British Columbia are among the important copper producers lately developed. Commenting on the circular of a well-known London firm, who give yearly a carefully-prepared statement of the copper production of the world, the same journal observes: "The large increases were in North America, where Canada is making nearly three times as much copper as was reported four years ago. The gain is entirely from British Columbia, chiefly in the Boundary district."

Some of the Provincial newspapers occasionally quote the "hot air" statements given out in Spokane, Washington, by certain persons interested in making it appear that the Imperial Coal & Coke Company is a very meritorious and important coal-mining enterprise. For instance, last week a Vancouver newspaper reproduced from the *Spokesman-Review*, notorious for its unreliability as regards its mining news, a characteristic statement attributed to Mr. O. G. Labaree, one of the promoters of the Imperial Company. Among the assertions included in this emanation are the following: "We have received assurances that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will build a road 28 miles long, from Michel, B.C., to the properties of the Imperial Company this summer"; "Mr. John Brown, one of the original locators of the property, is on the ground and will put about 20 men to work developing and preparing to ship"; "Our output will be about 10,000 tons of coal a day." Seemingly, nonsense of this sort is not unacceptable to the general run of readers of the Spokane newspaper, but why British Columbia newspapers should reproduce as news such trash is inexplicable. Does anyone familiar with the business-like methods of the C.P.R. suppose that its management has so far taken leave of its senses as to contemplate shortly constructing 28 miles of railroad in a mountainous district to a property that will put 20 men to work to prepare to ship coal, of which there is more than enough at collieries their railways already taps to supply all present available markets? And as to an output of 10,000 tons a day, which means between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 tons a year—why the total output of the Crow's Nest Pass Company during six years to the end of 1903 was less than 2,000,000 tons from all its many coal mines. We think it probable that Mr. John Brown's body, like that of his famous namesake, will "lie mouldering in the grave" long before the Imperial Company regularly maintains an output of 10,000 tons of coal a day. Meanwhile it would be better for the mining industry of British Columbia if such mis-statements, whether made designedly or ignorantly, were not