

from now on and will continue to grow for many years.

Quartz, which was not taken into consideration as a product a few years ago, has now commenced to attract both local and "outside" attention with the result that important discoveries have been developed, and experts who have visited a number of the more promising locations pronounce the ledges to be of exceptional value. Already, as the official returns show, very considerable initial expenditure has been made in exploiting these finds.

The returns of the placer and quartz departments of the Gold Commissioner's office from November 1, 1901, to October, 31, 1902, are as follows:—

PLACER DEPARTMENT.

Month.	Certificates of work.	Renewals.	Locations.	Water Rights.	Paid in lieu of assessment.
1901—					
November.....	362	308	358	1	3
December.....	347	388	202	23	0
1902—					
January.....	199	225	197	0	3
February.....	274	281	129	3	1
March.....	480	398	159	3	8
April.....	420	346	156	23	5
May.....	244	200	139	32	5
June.....	373	314	190	8	5
July.....	533	588	163	8	7
August.....	498	481	367	33	12
September.....	646	603	108	13	7
October.....	562	596	106	8	4
Total.....	4938	4728	2274	155	60

QUARTZ DEPARTMENT.

Month.	Certificates of work.	Grants.	Certificates of partnership.	Assignments.	Paid in lieu of assessment.
1901—					
November.....	28	77	5	26	1
December.....	24	66	0	151	2
1902—					
January.....	13	64	2	39	1
February.....	9	56	2	21	0
March.....	24	88	8	31	3
April.....	49	46	1	35	0
May.....	54	38	7	28	2
June.....	64	90	13	48	1
July.....	122	111	16	54	1
August.....	74	153	14	83	5
September.....	142	212	12	66	3
October.....	114	148	5	104	3
Totals.....	717	1149	85	685	32

For the twelve months there were 2,055 re-locations, and during the same period 6,232 free miners' certificates were issued.

COAL EXPORTATION AND TRADE.

IN an interview the other day in Toronto Mr. Elias Rogers, a director of the Crow's Nest Coal Co., stated that a largely increased output is to be made from these collieries in the early future. The company has spent this year in addition to its previous

expenditure approximately \$1,000,000 in further development of its mines and extensions of its plant and works. These works, now nearing completion, Mr. Rogers says will have a capacity of about 10,000 tons per day, the present daily output being 2,000 tons of coal and 600 tons of coke. By April the output will be 4,000 tons of coal and a proportionate increase in coke. The increase will continue until the output is 10,000 tons a day, or as much more as is marketable. The balance of the unissued stock was sold to shareholders this month at \$62.50 or a premium of 150 per cent.

An important transaction is reported this month in the sale of the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company's property and assets to a corporation known as the Western Coal Company, the capital of which is \$1,500,000. Besides the mines at Nanaimo and the extensive tract of land owned by the Vancouver Coal Company on Vancouver Island, the sale includes the fleet controlled by John Rosenfeld's Sons, the agents at San Francisco of the old company, and the coal business of Messrs. J. C. Wilson & Company. As far as can be learned, the officers of the new company are as follows: President, Mr. John Howard; Vice-President, Mr. John Wilson; Secretary, Mr. D. C. Norcross. The New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company was an English corporation, its head office being at 12 Old Jewry, London, and the board of directors were resident in the Old Country. The company was re-organized under the present title in 1889, the capital being £215,000, while there was also an issue of debentures, most of which have, however, been paid off.

Coal mining has been carried on in Nanaimo since 1853. In 1882, Mr. S. M. Robins took over the duties of resident superintendent for the New Vancouver Coal Co., and by his unflinching courtesy and tact has won the respect and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact. It is with much regret we learn that he is now about to resign this post.

Market conditions in San Francisco appear to have somewhat improved of late. Sales are being made of household coals at fairly good prices. For other grades fuel oil will permit but a small quantity to be sold, and the prices named are very low. There is a disposition on the part of oil producers to advance their prices. Contracts are now being made for delivery next year at fully 25 per cent. advance over prices of three months ago. It is reported, however, that the recent explosion of oil on board the steamer Progresso has attracted the attention of the public to the danger which accompanies oil as a fuel, and the necessity for greater care with respect to it. Hitherto there has practically been no restriction enforced with respect to the use of fuel oil on steamers. Now there will be enforced strict rules, which must be obeyed. Light oils which blazed at 85 to 100 degrees have even been used.

The exportations of coal from Vancouver Island collieries in November were as follows:— Tons.
New Vancouver Coal Co. 33,280
Ladysmith 24,380