

205,048 tons was made, so this company, like others, has suffered from the unfavorable conditions of quite recent years.

Much progress has been made in developing and equipping the company's Suquash colliery, in the northern part of Vancouver Island.

Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Co.—This company operates the Jingle Pot mine, New East Wellington colliery, situated about two miles from the city of Nanaimo, working on the coal seam known as the Old Wellington seam. Its production in 1915 was the smallest for five years or more—only 46,034 long tons, against 107,158 tons in 1914. In the official report for 1914 the district inspector of mines reported "no development work is in progress. All places have reached the boundary, and we are coming back extracting pillars." Probably similar conditions are accountable for the decrease in output in 1915.

NICOLA AND SIMILKAMEEN.

Three collieries produced coal in Nicola district in 1915, but there was a decided falling off in the total output, which was only 88,385 tons against 114,546 in 1914. The Middlesboro Colliery produced 54,500 tons, the Inland Coal and Coke Co. 32,820 tons, and the Pacific Coast Colliery Co. 1,065 tons. The corresponding figures for 1914 were 60,705, 53,281, and 560 tons. The net decrease, therefore, was 26,161 tons. Slackness of coal trade and high railway freight charges are held accountable for the non-progressive conditions obtaining here.

In Similkameen district, only the Princeton Coal and Land Co. made any production, and the output from its mine at Princeton was but 12,675 long tons as compared with 19,535 tons in 1914 and 29,206 tons in 1913. There is, however, a decided improvement in the fact that recently another railway was completed and commenced operating, and this gives Princeton coal access to several markets previously practically inaccessible to it, since only long and roundabout railway connections were available, with a correspondingly high freight charge that was really prohibitory. The prospects, therefore, are now believed to be more promising than at any previous time since the company commenced to mine coal.

The Coalmont colliery was closed throughout the year, awaiting money for continuing development and providing machinery and other equipment and transportation facilities between mine and railway. Here again confidence is felt that the outlook is better now that there is a competing railway and more provincial markets accessible.

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY COLLIERIES.

The closing of the Hosmer colliery in 1914 left but two coal-mining companies operating in this district, namely the Corbin Coal and Coke Co. and the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. The loss of production from the Hosmer mines has made a considerable difference in the total output of the district, since the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. does not take from other mines in the British Columbia part of the Crow's Nest district coal to compensate for that it formerly took from the Hosmer colliery. In 1914 the Hosmer mines made an out-

put of 102,468 tons against nil in 1915. A reduced output from the Corbin mines made the decrease larger, and this was only in small degree offset by an increase of 18,607 tons from the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.'s mines, so that the net decrease was 105,218 long tons, the district total having been 849,965 tons in 1915 as compared with 955,183 tons in 1914.

Corbin Coal and Coke Co.—This company operated two mines, namely No. 4 mine, situated near the tippie, and No. 3 mine, also known as the "Big Showing," worked both on the surface and underground. At the latter, surface operations are carried on when there is not any snow to impede the work by the open-cut or quarrying system, the coal being loaded by hand into one-ton bottom dump cars which are emptied into railway cars nearby. Output from No. 3 was 24,210 tons, and from No. 4 underground workings 28,745 tons, total 52,955 tons, against 74,312 tons in 1914.

Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.—This company in 1915 worked eight mines at its Coal Creek colliery and four at its Michel colliery. Coke ovens were operated at both Fernie and Michel. Its gross output of coal was 797,010 tons, against 778,403 tons in 1914, an increase of 18,607 tons. The quantity of coke made was 239,178 tons, as compared with 199,866 tons in 1914, an increase of 39,312 tons, which more than compensated for the loss of production at the Hosmer ovens that in 1914 made 34,711 tons.

Of the eight mines operated at Coal Creek in 1915, that known as No. 1 East, one of four on the south side of the valley, was the largest producer. It is at an elevation of 90 ft. above the central tippie and 800 ft. east of it. It was opened by means of a rock tunnel which cut the coal at 215 ft. from the entry. Both main and counter tunnels were driven 3,500 ft. toward the south. The cost of upkeep of the return airway having been considerable owing to pressure of the upper part of the large seam (the airway had been driven in the lower part of the seam), the timbers were drawn and the top coal to the main roof was dropped. The roof is of hard sandstone, so no timber is required to keep it up; the permanent air-course now provided will cost little to keep it in good order. Late in the year there was installed an endless-rope haulage system, operated by an engine placed outside the mine, to deliver the coal from the inside of the mine to the central tippie.

Much good work has also been done in the company's mines at Michel colliery, which like Coal Creek, now is in shape for production on a much larger scale than in past years, large new coal-areas having been opened. Of the four mines in operation, that known as New No. 8 is most noteworthy. No. 8 seam has been re-developed above old No. 8 workings sealed off on account of fire. Two tunnels have been driven and from these a four-way system of levels is projected, the two lower now well on the way, and Nos. 3 and 4 being developed by the advancement of backway incline raises that are being driven. A three-track tram line connects with a Phillips crossover tippie at the head of a gravity incline down to the endless-haulage system, thence to the main tippie. A pair of counter-balanced 7-ton skips operated from two 8-ft. drums controlled directly from the top loading-station and automatically loading and discharging are capable of handling under active working conditions 300 tons of coal an hour. The extension of coal-producing operations into the large field here entered constitutes one of the most important recent developments at the Michel colliery.