

BRITAIN'S MINERAL WEALTH.

An account of the quantity and value of the minerals obtained from the mines, quarries, blue books, etc., in the United Kingdom during the year 1896 is given in a blue book just issued, and which will interest many people in British Columbia. Many facts are contained in the report in addition to the statistical information, but the limitation of space will only permit us to refer to a few of them. In 1896 the total output of coal was 196,361,270 tons; of this amount 9,300 tons were obtained from open quarries. The seams worked in England vary from 11 to 12 inches to 30 feet in thickness, and in Scotland seams of cannel coal only six inches in thickness are being worked. The only mine worked for cobalt and nickel ore is in Flintshire, and after being idle for several years it has lately been reopened. The mine affords an instance of the recurrence of the mineral absolane with red clay in irregular cavities in the carboniferous limestone. Copper mining is rapidly decreasing in importance in Britain, only 10,168 tons having been produced in 1896, whereas the output in 1863 was 210,000 tons. Flint mining still survives at Brandon, in Suffolk; the produce of a few shallow mines worked in a most primitive fashion suffices to supply the gradually diminishing demand for gun flints, which are exported to savage countries.

Referring to gold ore, the report points out that compared with the yield of the colonies and many countries the amount of gold obtained in Britain is insignificant; nevertheless mineral veins in North Wales have from time to time furnished considerable quantities of rich auriferous quartz. In 1896 the five mines in Merionethshire produced 2,705 tons of ore, from which 1,351½ ounces of gold, having a value of £5,035, were obtained. This, however, is a much lower output than that of the previous year. The principal iron-producing districts at the present time are Cleveland in North Yorkshire, yielding over 5,000,000 tons annually, and Cumberland and North Lancashire, with an output of over 2,000,000 tons. The Cleveland ore is an earthy carbonate, containing about 30 per cent. of metal, while the red hematite of the two other counties yields 50 to 60 per cent. The total quantity of iron ore obtained from the mines and quarries last year was 12,500,000 tons.

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It is believed that PLATINUM, and perhaps IRIDIUM, are frequently passed over and lost by the prospector, as they have much the appearance of iron in the sand. These minerals are as valuable as gold, the latter more so, and if the placer claim owners will send the black or grey sand as aforesaid it will be assayed and the results given to the owner.

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JAMES BAKER,
Minister of Mines.



Reserve—Cassiar District.

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned tracts of land are reserved for Government purposes until further notice, viz:

1. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Bennett Lake which lies within the Province.
2. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Testin Lake which lies within the Province.
3. A belt of land commencing at a point five miles below Glenora, on the Skeena River; thence up the said river to a point five miles above Telegraph Creek, and having a width of five miles on each side of the said river.

GEO. B. MARTIN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,
Lands and Works Department, Victoria,
B. C., 15th December, 1897.

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