

MINERALS

The mineral resources of British Columbia are most extensive and widely distributed and include many precious and base ores and non-metallic substances. The total production for all years up to and including 1918 shows a gross value of \$637,353,581, according to the estimate of the provincial Department of Mines. The largest item is represented by the coal and coke output, with some \$187,147,652 to its credit. Gold takes second place with a total output of \$172,557,889, and copper third amounting to \$145,741,069. The total amount of silver mined is quoted at \$46,839,631, lead at \$42,294,251, and zinc at \$13,278,058. The balance is made up of miscellaneous minerals, building stone, bricks and similar products, amounting to \$29,495,131.

In 1893 the total value of British Columbia's mineral output was only about three and a half million dollars, in 1897 it passed the ten million mark, and in 1901 the twenty million mark. The following three years fell short of this showing, but the output increased again and in 1907 was over twenty-five million. The years 1912 and 1913 each showed values over thirty million dollars, while 1916 has proved the record with over forty-two million dollars' worth of mineral production to its credit. The year 1917 fell behind by some five million dollars, but 1918 is again well up and almost equals the great year of 1916. Except in the case of gold, the values of mineral products have been subject, especially in recent years, to fluctuations of considerable extent, so that comparative values of several years' outputs are not exact indications of their volumes, though generally speaking they serve to illustrate the rapid expansion of the mining industry of the province.

The quantities and values of mineral products for the whole province for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918 are shown on the following table:—

QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF MINERAL PRODUCTS FOR 1916, 1917 AND 1918.

Product.		1916.		1917.		1918.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			\$		\$		\$
Gold placer	Ounces	29,025	580,500	21,800	496,000	16,000	320,000
" lode..	"	221,932	4,587,334	114,523	2,367,190	164,674	3,403,811
Silver.	"	3,301,923	2,059,739	2,929,216	2,265,749	3,498,172	3,215,877
Lead.	Pounds	18,727,516	3,007,462	37,307,465	2,951,020	43,899,661	2,928,101
Copper.	"	65,379,364	17,784,494	50,007,565	16,038,256	61,483,754	15,143,411
Zinc..	"	37,168,980	4,043,985	41,848,513	3,166,259	41,772,916	2,899,041
Coal	Tons.						
	2,240lb.	2,081,093	7,294,325	2,149,975	7,524,913	2,302,245	11,511,221
Coke..	"	267,725	1,606,350	159,905	959,430	188,967	1,322,701
Miscellaneous products..	"		1,326,273		1,244,575		1,038,201
Total value..			42,290,462		37,010,392		41,782,471

*Annual Report of the Minister of Mines, Victoria, B.C., for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

The value of gold produced in these three years was \$11,754,836, of which \$10,358,236 was recovered from lode mining, leaving only \$1,396,500 as the product of the placer miner. Of the total output of gold from the early days to the end of 1918