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## Report on Mining in British Columbia

Provincial Mineralogist, W. Fleet Robertson, Shows Output for 1914 of \$26,388,825—Progress for the Year and Tables of Output and Districts of Shipping Mines.

In our issue of March 6 we presented the preliminary estimate of mineral production for 1914 by W. Fleet Robertson, Provincial Mineralogist. The complete report of Mr. Robertson is now at hand. The estimated value of production was \$26,189,020. The actual value, as shown in the definitive report, was \$26,388,825.

The report is in its usual replete form, and contains detailed information of conditions and developments throughout every district of the Province, with a large number of maps and photographs.

The year 1914, during its first half, gave promise of being an exceedingly favorable one for mining in the Province, and it was even expected that its mineral production would exceed that of any previous year.

These expectations, however, were shattered by the unprecedented conditions which confronted the mineral industry during the last half of the year. These conditions were brought about by the great European war, which so upset the metal markets of the world that quotations of prices for the more important metals were unobtainable for months. Such a condition was never before experienced, leaving no basis on which present sales of ores or metals could be transacted, or even the future values of these predicted.

Gold alone had a stable value, but the other metals that go to make up the mineral output of the Province are all such as America produces a large surplus of, which surplus had been disposed of in the European markets, and with these markets temporarily destroyed, the production of these metals was either stopped or materially curtailed.

Recently, however, since the eventual outcome of the struggle can be definitely predicted and Britain has obtained the undisputed command of the seas, the metal markets have been able to again resume business and to quote prices, these, however, being somewhat lower than previously prevailing. It will be seen, therefore, that the conditions adversely affecting the mining industry are but temporary and with their end within sight.

The production for 1914, although it is materially less than those for the years 1912 and 1913, is, nevertheless, about the same as for the year 1910, while it is considerably greater than that of any other year and is much greater than the average production for the last ten years.

The decrease shown this year, while it is partially caused by a lesser quantity of the metals produced, is not entirely attributable to that cause, but is partially due to the lower average price of metals prevailing in 1914 as compared with those of 1913.

For example, the average market value of silver in 1914 was about 4.9 cents an ounce lower than in 1913; copper was 2.27 cents a pound lower; lead, 0.5 cent a pound lower; zinc, 0.45 cent a pound lower.

If the metal prices of 1913 had been maintained during 1914 and applied to the output for that year, this output would have been valued at some \$1,170,117 greater than it appears. The lower average prices for metals prevailing in 1914 are partially attributable to the war, but to some extent were occasioned by the financial stringency which preceded the war and possibly foreshadowed it.

The gross value of the mineral production for 1914 was \$26,388,825, a decrease from that of the year 1913 of \$3,907,573, or about 12.2 per cent.

The tonnage of ore mined in the lode mines of the Province during the past year was less than that of 1913. The ore mined amounted to 2,175,971 tons, showing a decrease from that of the previous year of 487,838 tons.

The tonnage mined in 1914 was produced by the various districts in about the following proportions: Boundary, 50.3 per cent.; Rossland, 13.6 per cent.; Cassiar, 12.1 per cent.; the Coast District, 11.7 per cent.; Slocan District, 4.7 per cent.; Ainsworth, 3.1 per cent.; Nelson, 2.7 per cent.; East Kootenay, 1.7 per cent.; and all other parts of the Province combined, 0.1 per cent.

The following table shows the number of mines which shipped ore during the year 1914, the districts in which they are situated, and the tonnage produced in each district, together with the number of men employed, both above ground and underground:—

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