

About 78 per cent. of the total Provincial output of silver comes from the treatment of silver-lead-zinc ores and 21.5 per cent. from the smelting of gold-copper ores carrying silver.

Lead.

The total amount of lead produced in 1915 is estimated to be about 45,900,372 lb., valued at \$1,917,770. This represents, as compared with the previous year, a decrease in the quantity of the metal produced of 4,034,670 lb., but, owing to the higher market price prevailing in 1915, the value of this year's product is some \$145,922 greater than that of the previous year.

The diminished quantity of output occurs chiefly in the Alnsworth Division, which produced over 5,000,000 lb. less than last year, due to the fact that the *Highland* did not work at all and the *Bluebell* only worked during the latter part of the year.

The Nelson Division this year only produced half as much lead as last year.

East Kootenay, on the other hand, produced 2,000,000 lb. more in 1915 than in the previous year, its gross lead production being 26,708,377 lb.; of this amount the *Sullivan* mine is credited with 26,320,000 lb., which represents over 57 per cent. of the Provincial output.

Alnsworth Division produced this year only 2,873,306 lb., of which the *Bluebell* is credited with 1,603,000 lb. and the *Cork-Province* with 715,000 lb., the remainder of the production being contributed by some dozen smaller properties.

The Slocan District produced about 14,791,795 lb. of lead, which is 442,115 lb. less than last year. The principal contributors to this 1915 production were the *Standard* with 8,480,945 lb., the *Surprise* with 2,323,377 lb., the *Rambler-Cariboo* with 1,543,351 lb., and the *Slocan Star*, which is expected to have put out 1,163,000 lb., while the *Ruth-Hope*, Silverton Mines, and others added their share.

Nelson Division is expected to have put out about 1,017,498 lb. of lead, of which the *Emerald* is supposed to have contributed over 900,000 lb. and the *Leadville* over 71,000 lb.

The only other Mining Division making any important lead-output was Omineca, which produced about 320,000 lb., of which the *Sunrise* is responsible for 60,000 lb. and the *Silver Standard* for 55,000 lb.

Trout Lake Division produced less than 140,000 lb. of lead.

Copper.

The amount of copper estimated to have been produced during the year 1915 is the largest in the history of copper-mining in the Province, amounting as it does to 57,905,488 lb., worth \$10,000,068; the highest previous production, made in 1912, was 51,456,537 lb., valued at \$8,408,513.

The production as estimated for 1915, compared with that of the previous year, shows an increase in quantity of 12,895,789 lb. and in value of \$3,884,749.

Owing to the heavy demand for war purposes, principally for brass to be used in shells, the market price of copper increased steadily during the year. The year opened with copper at about 12.7 cents a pound in the New York market, and at the end of December it was 22.25 cents; the average price for the year was 17.275 cents, as compared with an average price of 13.6 cents in 1914. This higher market value of the metal assisted materially in raising the value of the copper produced, thereby greatly stimulating production.

The large increase in quantity of copper produced this year is due to a greatly increased production from the Granby Company's *Hidden Creek* mine, at Anyox, on Observatory Islet, and to a return to a nearly normal output from the Boundary District. A slight decrease is anticipated from the *Britannia* mine, due to a shut-down for some time owing to a snowslide; but this decrease is more than made up by the output from the *Rocher Daboulé* mine, in the Omineca Division. Nelson Division shows a considerable decrease, which is however, more than compensated by an increase from the Trail Creek Mining Division.