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Rossland Board of Trade . . .

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A Brief History of
Rossland
British Columbia



Presented to the Members of the American
Institute of Mining Engineers on the Occa-
sion of their Visit to Rossland, June 28, '95

Brief History of Rossland.

To the President, Officers and Members of the American Institute of Mining Engineers :

The Citizens of Rossland with one accord extend a hearty welcome to the President and Members of the American Institute of Mining Engineers upon the occasion of their visit to our City and Province, June, 1905.

This synopsis of the history of Rossland and its mines is prepared by and presented with the compliments of the President and Members of the Rossland Board of Trade.

Rossland, so named, in the year 1894, in honor of its founder, is situate five miles north of the International Boundary line, and six miles west of the Columbia River in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District, on the south slope of Red Mountain, the summit of which is 5150 feet above sea level, in latitude 49 deg. 05 min., longitude 117 deg. 48 min.

Trail Creek and the Smelter City of Trail, take their names from the Dewdney Trail.

Kootenay is derived from an Indian word Kootenuha, said to mean "People of the Water," and was applied to the Indians on Kootenay and Arrow Lakes

Kootenay District, composed of East and West Kootenay, comprises an area of 15,060,000 acres, and occupied the southeast corner of British Columbia, the Mineral Province of Canada.

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The boundaries of the District are triangular, the apex of which is at a point where 52 deg. north latitude crosses the Rocky Mountains; the base is on the International Boundary line, extending from 118 deg. west latitude to 114 deg. west latitude, enclosing 23,531 out of the 372,630 square miles contained in the Province.

Though the District is scarcely scratched in a developed sense, it contributes nearly as much to the output of minerals, as all the other Districts in the Province combined, which as a whole produces over 75 per cent of all the copper, and over 95 per cent of all the lead produced in Canada.

In the year of 1865, the placer mines of Wild Horse, Findlay and other creeks in East Kootenay district, having attracted a large number of miners, a trail was built to give access to this region from the coast, a distance of 280 miles, under the supervision of Mr. E. Dewdney, afterwards the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, after whom it was named.

After the depletion of the placer mines the trail for 25 years was abandoned except by trappers and hunters.

Although the Blue Bell mine on Kootenay Lake was discovered by David Douglas in the early twenties of the Nineteenth Century, and was used as a source of lead for bullets by the Hudson's Bay Company, it was not until the discoveries of the Ainsworth and Hall mines about 1888 that attention was directed to lode mining in West Kootenay. Attracted by these discoveries, prospectors again used the trail, and on the 27th of May, 1890, Oliver Bordeau located the Lilly May (one and a half miles south-west of the center of Rossland). The trail passing through

BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSSLAND.

the centre of the claim was the immediate cause of its discovery, and ultimately that of the Rossland mines. Joe Morris and Joe Bourgeois were doing work on the Lilly May, and whilst waiting for supplies on July 7th, picked their way through the heavy underbrush to Red Mountain, where Bourgeois located the Centre Star and War Eagle, whilst Morris located the Idaho and Virginia. At the same time they discovered the Le Roi, which they gave to E. S. Topping, for recording the five claims, involving the expenditure of \$12.50. Topping had samples of the ore assayed, the Le Roi ran \$38 and \$40 in gold; War Eagle \$24, Centre Star \$25.

The news of the discovery spreading around from Nelson, a regular stampede took place to the scene of the new Eldorado, and claims were staked in every direction. This was the beginning of Rossland.

In November, 1890, Topping bonded the Le Roi to a syndicate of Spokane men, who later purchased outright, developing it, until in the year 1895, the mine paid for its own development and equipment, and the following year commenced paying dividends, which aggregated \$875,000 up to the time it passed to the British America Corporation in August, 1898, by their purchasing a majority of the stock at \$6 per share, the equivalent of \$3,000,000 for the property. The minority interest was afterwards purchased at \$8 per share, or an equivalent of \$4,000,000 for the property.

Following the lead given by the Le Roi, development began on numerous prospects within, adjacent to, and in many cases, miles outside the city, the most important being the Centre Star, War Eagle, Josie, Jumbo, Iron

BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSSLAND.

Mask, Columbia and Kootenay, Virginia, Velvet, Nickel Plate, Great Western, White Bear, Evening Star, Monte Christo, Enterprise, Idaho, Iron Horse, Iron Colt, C. & C., Georgia, Colonna, Caledonia, Mascot, Snowshoe, Southern Belle, No. 1, Abe Lincoln, Wallingford, Red Mountain, Nevada, Good Friday, I. X. L., O. K., Deerpark, Homestake, Crown Point, Monita, Cliff, Gertrude, St. Elmo, Novelty, Giant, Good Hope, Commander, Mayflower, Bluebird, Gopher, R. E. Lee, Lilly May, Zilor, Palo Alto, Nest Egg, Spitzee, Morning Star, Highland, Mugwump, Sunset, Atlantic, Gold King, and minor properties too numerous to mention, as there are hundreds of Crown granted claims within a radius of three miles of Rossland. All those named are in various stages of development, having from a few thousand to a few hundred thousand expended on them. Many of them are dormant from numerous causes incident to mining history, familiar to all acquainted therewith.

Intimately connected with the early history of Rossland, was the building of the Trail Smelter and connecting Railway by Mr. Heinze, who began construction in 1895 and was operating the first of five furnaces in February, 1896. Prior to this time, the ore mined was shipped to Butte, Tacoma, Everett, Great Falls and West Helena. Mr. Heinze's first contract was with the Le Roi Mining Company for freighting and treating 75,000 tons of ore at \$11 per ton, in addition to \$1 per ton bonus from the Dominion Government.

During the year 1897, the Le Roi Mining Company built their own Smelter at Northport, and the Red Moun-

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tain Railway was built by Mr. D. C. Corbin, connecting Rossland with the Smelter, and with the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, facilitating matters greatly, both for merchandise, mine supplies and ore transport.

In contrast to these heavy charges for freight and treatment in the year 1896, the present rate for the different ores, will probably average less than \$4.00 per ton, so that mines which could not be successfully worked a few years ago, might now be profitably operated.

A most encouraging feature of the mines is the continuity of the ore to the lower levels, as far as explored, to a depth of 1550 feet, the values being above the average of the intervening levels.

Another feature of great interest is the attention being devoted to the installation of concentration by the various mines, the Le Roi having just completed the fifth mill in the Trail Creek Mining Division.

Evidence of renewed interest, and improving conditions are manifest in the leasing of promising heretofore dormant properties, by working miners, who are willing to risk their savings and their efforts, an example that might well be followed by many absentee owners.

BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSSLAND.

The following records of ore production for the Rossland Camp only date from 1895, no authentic record having been kept before that date. They are as follows:

Year.	GOLD		SILVER.		COPPER.	
	TONS.	Oz.	Oz.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
1895	19,693	31,497	46,702	\$ 30,496	840,420	\$ 42,021
1896	38,075	55,275	89,285	59,830	1,580,635	79,030
1897	68,804	97,024	110,668	65,821	1,819,586	90,979
1898	111,282	87,343	170,804	94,539	5,232,011	629,411
1899	172,665	102,976	185,818	105,173	5,693,889	996,431
1900	217,636	111,625	167,378	97,648	2,071,865	335,435
1901	283,360	132,333	970,460	543,458	8,333,446	1,342,518
1902	329,534	162,146	373,101	184,871	11,667,807	1,356,966
1903	360,786	145,353	209,537	106,403	8,652,127	1,145,109
1904	312,991	133,095	181,830	97,024	7,119,876	912,768
To'l	1,914,826	1,038,667	2,504,983	1,385,263	53,011,662	6,930,668

EPITOME

Tonnage 10 years.....	1,914,826, value.....	\$ 30,013,767
Gold, ozs 10 years.....	1,038,667, value.....	\$ 21,697,836
Silver, ozs, 10 years.....	2,504,983, value.....	1,385,263
Copper, lbs. 10 years.....	53,011,622, value.....	6,930,668

An average for ten years of slightly over \$15.67 per ton.

\$ 30,013,767 \$ 30,013,767

BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSSLAND

Total Production for the Province for all Years up to
and Including 1904.

Gold, placer.....	\$66,803,403
Gold, lode.....	31,451,956
Silver.....	21,716,870
Lead.....	12,559,139
Copper.....	21,381,791
Coal and Coke.....	68,274,893
Building stone, bricks, etc.....	3,900,000
Other metals.....	113,799
Total.....	\$226,201,851

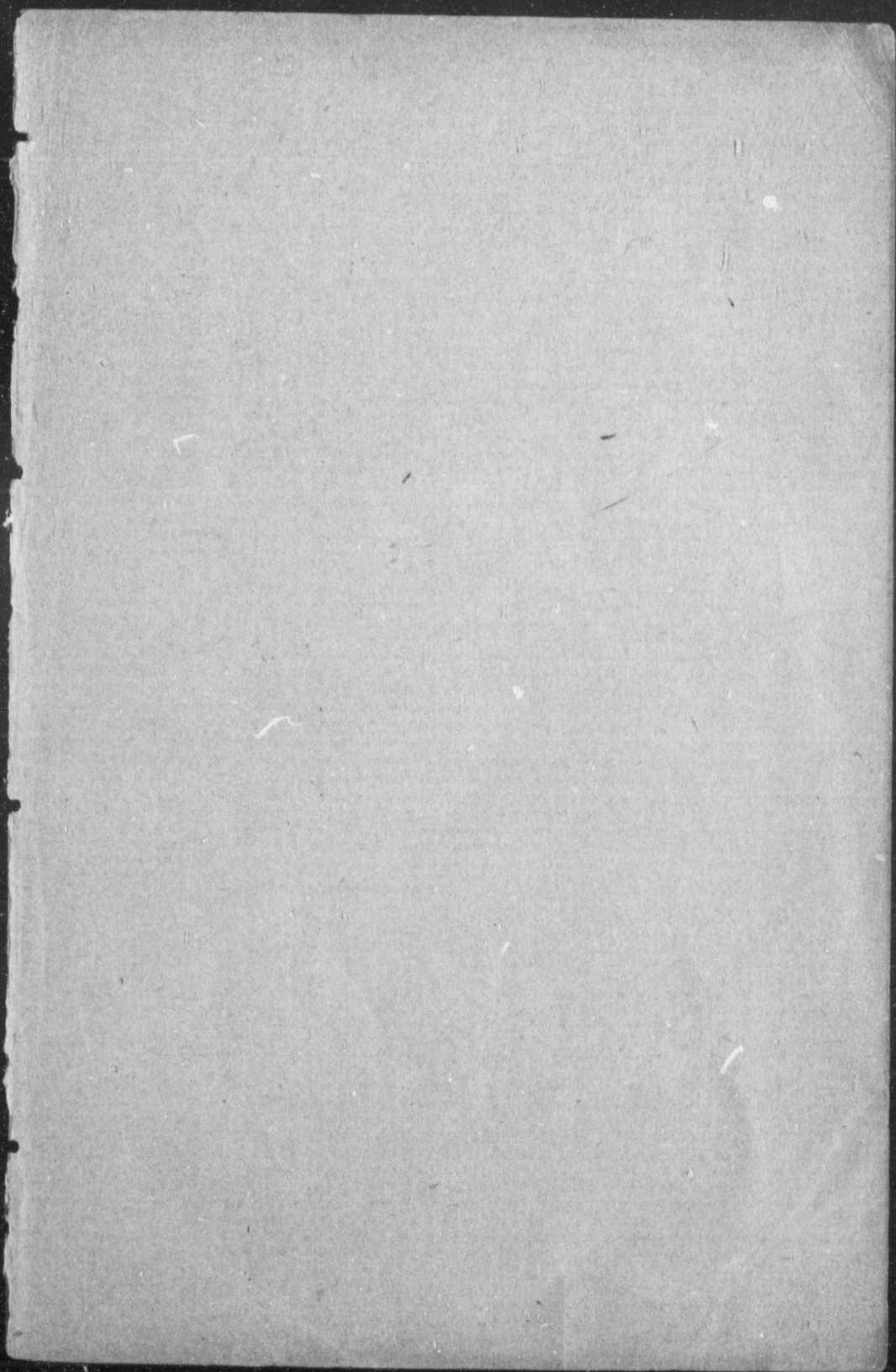
Production for the Province for Each Year 1890 to
1904, Inclusive.

1852 to 1889 (inclusive).....	\$71,981,634
1890.....	2,608,803
1891.....	3,521,102
1892.....	2,978,530
1893.....	3,588,413
1894.....	4,225,717
1895.....	5,643,042
1896.....	7,507,956
1897.....	10,455,268
1898.....	10,906,861
1899.....	12,393,131
1900.....	16,344,751
1901.....	20,086,780
1902.....	17,486,550
1903.....	17,495,954
1904.....	18,977,359
Total.....	\$226 201,851

PRODUCTION OF LOPE MINES IN THE PROVINCE*

Year.	GOLD		SILVER		LEAD.		COPPER		TOTAL VALUES
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Pounds	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	
1887	.....	\$.....	17,690	17,331	204,800	9,216	.....	\$.....	26,547
1888	.....	.....	79,780	75,000	674,500	29,813	.....	.....	104,813
1889	.....	.....	53,192	47,873	165,100	6,498	.....	.....	54,371
1890	.....	.....	70,427	73,948	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	.....	.....	73,948
1891	.....	.....	4,500	4,000	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	.....	.....	4,000
1892	.....	.....	77,160	66,935	808,420	33,064	.....	.....	99,999
1893	1,170	23,404	227,000	195,000	2,135,023	78,996	.....	.....	297,400
1894	6,252	125,014	746,379	470,219	5,662,523	169,875	324,680	16,234	781,342
1895	39,264	785,271	1,496,522	977,229	16,475,464	532,255	952,840	47,642	2,342,397
1896	62,259	1,244,180	3,135,343	2,100,689	24,199,977	721,384	3,818,556	190,926	4,257,179
1897	106,141	2,122,820	5,472,971	3,272,836	38,841,135	1,390,517	3,325,180	266,258	7,052,431
1898	110,061	2,201,217	4,292,401	2,375,841	31,693,559	1,077,581	7,271,678	874,781	6,529,420
1899	138,315	2,857,573	2,939,413	1,663,708	21,862,436	878,870	7,722,591	1,351,453	6,751,604
1900	167,153	3,453,381	3,958,175	2,309,200	63,358,621	2,691,887	9,997,080	1,615,289	10,069,757
1901	210,384	4,348,603	5,151,333	2,884,745	51,582,906	2,002,733	27,603,746	4,446,963	13,683,044
1902	236,491	4,888,269	3,917,917	1,941,328	22,536,381	824,832	29,636,057	3,446,673	11,101,102
1903	232,831	4,812,616	2,996,204	1,521,472	18,089,283	689,744	34,359,921	4,547,535	11,571,367
1904	222,042	4,589,608	3,222,481	1,719,516	36,646,244	1,421,874	35,710,128	4,578,037	12,309,035
Total	1,532,363	31,451,956	37,858,888	21,716,870	334,936,372	12,559,139	162,722,529	21,381,791	87,109,756

The information as to production in the earlier years is obtained from the "Mineral Statistics and Mines" for 1886 Geological Survey of Canada



Rossland Board of Trade

1905

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