

a depth of 60 or 80 feet from the surface, and in the channels or beds of ancient water-courses.

The most extensive and costly workings in operation in the Province are at Cariboo. Here there are 5 steam engines, 27 water wheel, 13 tunnels, 63 shafts, 43 hydraulics, 23 ground sluices. The miners employed number over 1,000, and the estimated annual yield of gold amounts to \$700,000.

#### OMENICA.

The Omenica Mines are situated on the north-eastern watershed of the great gold range, which traverses the Province in a direction from north-west to south-east, between the Coast Range and the Rocky Mountains, while Cariboo is on the western slope, all the water of that district draining into the Fraser River, which falls into the Pacific.

Although mining is still carried on to a considerable extent, the great promise held out by the Omenica Mines has not been fulfilled.

There are at present about 60 claims being worked by 80 men. There are 2 tunnels, 45 ground sluices, and 3 hydraulics. It is estimated that the gold taken out in 1874 amounted to \$81,000.

Mining is chiefly confined to two creeks--Manson and Germansen.

#### CASSIAR.

The name of Cassiar is given to a large tract of country in a north-west direction from Omenica, just south of the 60th parallel of north latitude, and lying on both sides of the Liard River, a branch of the Mackenzie.

The works and discoveries in this district in 1874 have been eminently successful and satisfactory. Several new creeks, of equal value with the original discoveries, have been struck, and the individual yield has been rarely excelled in the first year of a new field. Hardly any of the miners who visited Cassiar and remained for the season returned "broken." (Report of the Minister of Mines.)

The following statements concerning the mines on Dease Creek were made by Mr. Gold Commissioner Sullivan, dated the 1st July, 1874.

"Mining on Dease Creek is carried on vigorously, and I am pleased to report that the mines, so far, on which the dams have been erected, are yielding very handsome results." The success of the various Companies appears from the following table:--

Three-to-One Co.	\$ 4 to 5 oz. per day per man.
Caledonia	" 3 to 8 "
Lyon	" 2 1/2 to 8 "
Forest Rose	" 3 to 8 "
Wigg	" 4 to 5 "
Canadian	" 4 to 5 "

Six other companies average about 5 ounces daily per man.

The product of the Cassiar district in 1874 was estimated at \$1,000,000.

#### KOOTENAY.

This district is situated on the south-eastern border of the Province, and is largely occupied by miners from the neighbouring American territories. The number of miners employed is 132. 82 claims are

recorded, and 33 regularly worked. Yield of gold for the year about \$50,000.

Prospecting in outlying sections of this district in 1874 proved the presence of gold in every creek examined.

**Silver.**--"In almost every mining camp in British Columbia, from the earliest discoveries of gold in 1858 to the present time, pieces of virgin silver have been found among the gold in washing the pay dirt, which led to the conclusion that valuable silver leads would eventually be found."

"True veins of silver ore were finally discovered about 1871 in the Cascade Mountain Range at Fort Hope, about 80 miles from the mouth of Fraser River, and 6 miles south of the town."

"The first lead, called the Eureka Mine, crops out about 5,000 feet above the river level, is well defined, 4 to 7 feet in thickness, and has been traced 3,000 feet. A tunnel has been driven into this lead 190 feet. The ore is described as a magnificent gray copper, and has yielded under assay from \$20 to \$1,050 worth of silver to the ton."

"During the time the above lead was being worked, another about 300 feet distant was discovered. This lead is of a far more valuable character, and is called the Van Bremer Mine."

"The ore is described as chloride of silver, and has yielded under assay from \$25 to \$2,403 of silver per ton of rock. A quantity of the out-crop sold at San Francisco at \$120 a ton. The lead is distinctly traceable for half a mile."

Although a company has been formed for working these lodes, no works of any importance have been undertaken. It is, however, rumoured that when the company have matured their plans, working of the lodes will be vigorously prosecuted."

**Copper.**--Copper has been found in various places, and is doubtless distributed widely over the Province. At the entrance of Howe Sound a lead of pyrites was discovered in 1865, and worked for some time with good prospects, but abandoned from want of capital.

**Iron.**--A vast deposit of magnetite exists on the south side of Texada Island, concerning which Mr. Richardson, of the Dominion Geological Survey, says:--

"These iron ores could hardly be more favorably situated either as regards mining, smelting, or shipment. There is deep water close to the shore, and wharves might be easily and cheaply constructed at which vessels could always load in safety."

The site of the ore is 18 miles from Comox Harbour, 21 miles from Deep Bay, and about 23 miles from Fanny Bay. These are all good and safe harbours, and only a short distance from the productive coal seams of the Comox area. In the event of charcoal being required for smelting the ore, abundance of wood can be procured on the island."

**Coal.**--"Coal was first discovered by the Indians here in about 1854, and their discovery communicated to the Hudson Bay Company, who proceeded to work it till the year 1861, when they sold out to an English Company, by whom it is now held."

The present active operations in coal are confined to the Nanaimo district, the statistics of which for 1874 are as follows:--