

Several assays have lately been made at the Government Assay Office here, some of which show very good results as regards both the yield of gold and silver, and were the lodes, from which the specimens were taken, situated where machinery for reduction at any reasonable rates was available, they would, no doubt, be eagerly sought after by capitalists. A quantity of rock, from the vicinity of Soda Creek, from which a very favourable assay of silver was obtained, I understand, is about to be forwarded to San Francisco for reduction, and a practical test of its value, which, if found satisfactory, will lead to extensive machinery being at once erected on the ground.

The undermentioned claims on Lightning Creek, yielded during the first nine months of 1875:

Van Winkle . . . . .	238,262
Victoria . . . . .	202,282
Vancouver . . . . .	54,115
Vulcan . . . . .	15,000
Costello . . . . .	17,442

#### OMINICA.

The estimate of this section's product of gold during the first nine months of 1875 is \$2,000 Population 88.

#### KOOTENAY.

In turning attention to the southern gold fields of British Columbia, there is loss reason for congratulation.

Kootenay, during the year 1875, has barely held its own. The total population was only 144, of which 90 whites and 50 Chinese were engaged in mining, with a total yield of 41,000.

The Government Agent there, however, considers that there "are manifestations of more energy on the part of our people this year."

He says—"From all I can learn, I am of opinion that Quartz Creek and other tributaries of the Columbia River will prove a good section of the country for miners.

"Arrangements are being made to prospect the deep ground on Wild Horse Creek this fall and winter. A number of new hill claims have been opened out on Wild Horse Creek this season."

At Rock Creek, only eleven men are now engaged in mining, and no returns have been received of the result of their work.

#### FRASER RIVER.

The only portion of our gold mines to which allusion now remains to be made, are those situated on the banks of the Fraser, between Yale and Soda Creek. Mining is chiefly confined in these localities to Chinese and Indians, and it is estimated that about \$50,000 has been produced by their operations in 1875.

#### COAL.

#### RETURN OF COAL RAISED AND SOLD, 1875.

	Actual output, No of tons sold, 1875	No of tons sold, for home consumption, 1875	No of tons sold, for exportation, 1875	No of tons on hand, Jan. 1st 1875
Vancouver Coal Co	50,000	27,053	5,005	15,240
Wellington Colliery	50,502	30,247	2,904	2,718
Total Output	110,502	31,292	7,749	17,958

#### COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNT OF COAL RAISED AND SOLD IN 1874 AND 1875 RESPECTIVELY.

	Total	No. of tons for home consumption, 1874	No. of tons for home consumption, 1875	No. of tons for exportation, 1874	Total Sales, 1874
Total output of coal	110,502	31,292	31,292	40,202	10,641
do	81,547	30,022	30,022	56,088	81,000
Increase 1875	28,957	12,270	1,270	10,715	16,545

It is satisfactory to observe that in one year the output of coal from these two mines should have increased from 81,000 to 110,000 tons, and that the home consumption increased over 6,000 tons, while the export sale increased 10,000 tons. The increase in home consumption indicates increased vitality in manufacturing, and home steam shipping interests.

The number of miners employed at Nicommo and the neighborhood, amounts to:

Whites	286	Chinese	170	Indians	31	Total	625
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and including the hands employed on the Harwood mine, being an increase of nearly 200 over the number employed in 1873, a fact satisfactorily illustrating the advance made in active operations in these mines.