

In the Province of British Columbia the Pilot Bay smelter reduces silver lead ores to silver lead bullion, which is shipped to the United States to be refined. The Hall mines smelter at Nelson reduces silver-copper ore to matte, which is shipped to the United States. The Trail Creek smelter treats iron ores (pyrrhotite) containing gold, 3 to 4 per cent copper, and a little silver.

The Federal Parliament, in the session of 1895, passed an Act to encourage silver-lead smelting and the smelting of other ores of gold and silver, to continue in effect till the 1st July, 1900. The bounty is not to be in any one year more than \$30,000, at the rate of 50 cents per ton, nor more than \$150,000 for the whole term of years from July 1st, 1895, to July 1st, 1900. Smelting works to participate in the bounty must be established and in operation before the first day of January, 1897.

746. The following table gives the exports of silver ore during the years 1871 to 1895 :—

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE.	Quantity.	Value.	YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	§		Tons.	§
1871..		595,261	1884.....	37	12,920
1872.....		1,087,839	1885.....	31	7,539
1873.....		1,379,380	1886.....	81	25,134
1874.....	346	407,835	1887.....	40	24,937
1875.....		443,443	1888.....	543 $\frac{1}{2}$	294,420
1876.....	691	584,371	1889.....	216 $\frac{1}{2}$	168,265
1877.....	190	122,695	1890.....	238	201,615
1878.....		103,681	1891.....	309	238,367
1879.....		637,000	1892.....	325	193,441
1880.....		149,146	1893.....	418	65,496
1881.....		34,494	1894.....	* 629,655	423,707
1882.....		15,110	1895.....	* 1,116,217	651,737
1883.....	100	14,200			

* Ounces.

747. The world's production of silver since the discovery of America by Columbus is estimated to be 7,829,328,054 fine ounces.

The production has increased greatly during recent years, as the following table shows :—

	Ounces.
1886.....	93,276,000
1887.....	96,124,000
1888.....	108,827,000
1889.....	120,214,000
1890.....	126,095,000
1891.....	137,171,000
1892.....	152,940,000
1893.....	161,162,000
1894.....	165,918,338