

was 31,630 tons, as compared with 41,950 tons in 1916 and of briquettes 93,818 tons, as compared with 107,959 tons. Of natural gas the consumption in the province was, according to the Mines Department of the Dominion Government, 6,744,130,000 cubic feet, as compared with 6,904,231,000 cubic feet, the finally revised quantity for 1916.

British Columbia.—According to the Annual Report for 1917 of the Provincial Mineralogist, the total value of the mineral production of British Columbia from 1852 to 1917 was \$595,571,107, distributed between the different mineral products as follows: Placer gold, \$75,116,103; lode gold, \$93,717,974; silver, \$43,623,761; lead, \$39,366,144; copper, \$130,597,620; zinc, \$10,379,018; coal and coke, \$174,313,658; building stone, bricks, etc., \$27,902,381; miscellaneous minerals, etc., \$554,448. Table 79 shows the value of the total mineral production of the province from 1852 to 1917, inclusive. The value of the total mineral production for the calendar year 1917 was \$37,010,392, a decrease from that of the record year of 1916 of \$5,280,070, or 12.5 p.c., but an increase over that of the previous record year of 1912 of \$4,569,592, or 14 p.c. The principal mineral products of British Columbia are gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc and coal. Table 80 shows the quantity and value of the mineral production of British Columbia for the three calendar years 1915-1917. The gross value of the metallic minerals recovered in 1917 was \$27,284,474, a decrease as compared with 1916 of \$4,779,040, or about 15 p.c. The adverse influences which retarded mineral production in 1917 were industrial troubles, reduced metal prices in the last quarter of the year, a very much lessened demand for lead and zinc for munition purposes and the economic conditions which severely handicapped the mining of gold. Metal prices during the year 1917 were favourable to the stimulation of productive mining, as, while there were many fluctuations in price, the general averages were as a rule quite as good as in 1916. The average price of zinc for 1917 was considerably below that of the previous year, but to offset this both silver and lead were considerably higher, while copper was practically the same. During the last quarter of the year the market price of lead declined materially, as the high prices prevailing in the earlier months of the year had so stimulated production as to cause a surplus of lead in the market, with consequent lowering of price. Due to the curtailment of orders for lead by the Imperial Munitions Board, the Trail Smelter was forced to decrease its output of lead, as no Canadian market was available; a considerably larger production of lead could have therefore been made but for the inability to market it. Since the commencement of the war there has been a steady growing demand for minerals and metals which are but little known by the general public. Amongst these are molybdenite, used in the manufacture of special high grade steel for guns. The actual provincial output of molybdenite during 1917 was 152 tons of ore containing about 12,000 lb. of molybdenite. Molybdenite ore, concentrated to contain 85 to 90 p.c. of that mineral, is worth in Canada about \$2,000 per ton. For the first time in the history of the province there was a production of arsenic, the value amounting to \$20,000.