

the best means of furthering the interests of the industry be freely given attention and consideration now withheld.

RAILWAYS TO SIMILKAMEEN AND NICOLA.

THE president of the Great Northern Railway Co., when visiting Vancouver recently, announced that construction work on the western section of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway is to be commenced during the ensuing winter and be proceeded with expeditiously. The starting point will be Cloverdale, on the New Westminster & Southern railway, connecting New Westminster, B.C., with the Great Northern Co's line thence to Seattle, Washington. The work on the V. V. & E. railway will be divided into sections, working eastward through the Fraser valley and over the Hope mountains to meet the eastern section of the railway now in course of construction from the Boundary district into the Similkameen country. While there is now comparatively little importance placed on the completion of this railway by mine owners in south-west Kootenay and the Boundary, other railways affording them transportation facilities, the completion of the through line will materially assist in the opening up of mining camps in the Similkameen known to have surface showings indicating the occurrence of large mineral deposits, beside ensuring the further development, to a productive stage, of a number of mining properties upon which extensive prospecting work has already been done. Further, the coal measures of the northern Similkameen and Nicola country will be made accessible by the construction of the V. V. & E. railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway Co's branch line from its main line at Spence's Bridge southward to Nicola. The provision of railway transportation for the Similkameen and Nicola districts will contribute to a largely increased mineral production in British Columbia so soon as the numerous mining camps that will be benefited thereby shall have had time to carry out the requisite development work. At present there is only one productive mine throughout the large areas the new railway will tap, viz., the Nickel Plate, near Hedley, owned by the Yale Mining Co., Ltd., which mine has an abundance of gold-bearing ore running in large quantity \$10 to \$15 per ton, and which is being treated at the Daly Reduction Co's 40-stamp mill at Hedley. Other mines in which much work has been done are the Sunset, on which the B. C. Copper Co., of New York, has had some 30 men engaged in underground prospecting, with good results; a big group in Voigt's camp with an extensive surface showing stripped and some underground work done, and another group at Olalla, which Mr. W. C. McDougall has been prospecting for several years.

The United States Geological Survey's report on "Cement Production in the United States" shows that it increased from 335,500 barrels worth \$139,050 in 1890, to more than 22,000,000 barrels worth \$27,000,000 in 1903.

THE CANADIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ITS WORK IN THE WEST.

FROM Dr. Robert Bell, acting director of the Geological Survey Department of Canada, who lately spent a few days in Victoria on his return from a brief visit to Dawson and other places in Yukon territory, some particulars were obtained by the MINING RECORD relative to the field work done this year in western Canada by a number of the officials of the Survey.

The following is a summary of the work of members of the department, commencing with that done in Alberta and proceeding westwards:

In Manitoba and the North-West Territories, chiefly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, Dr. Robert Chalmers, whose special line is superficial or surface geology, obtained much data relative to clays, sand, boulders, glacial phenomena, etc. He worked westwards to the neighbourhood of Canmore.

In Alberta Mr. Theophile Denis made exhaustive enquiries concerning coal mining and obtained statistics relating to the development and progress of the coal mining industry in that part of the Dominion. Lethbridge, Galt, Canmore, Anthracite, Bankhead, and other coal mining localities along the railways of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., and up the Cascade river, were visited. The data obtained will be used as part of a bulletin in course of preparation having regard to coal in general throughout the Dominion. This will contain accounts of the occurrence of coal in various parts, descriptions of coal mines, etc. Much work has previously been done in the maritime provinces for the same purposes, it being the intention to make the bulletin comprehensive and full.

Mr. Frank Johnston, who has been a member of the Survey for a number of years but only latterly taking up field work, was engaged in the Edmonton district, where his work had particular reference to coal, petroleum, natural gas, etc.

Mr. D. D. Cairnes worked in country on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, from the main line of Canadian Pacific railway south to its Crow's Nest Pass line. He commenced at Morley, and working southward, obtained much information regarding the general geology, in preparation for a geological map of this part of the country.

Mr. D. B. Dowling continued the examinations he began in 1903 in the coal-fields of the Rocky mountains, working this year in British Columbia west of the summit of the range and south of the C. P. R. main line as far as he was able to go this year. He is one of the special coal geologists of the Survey, and in the course of his examinations of the Rocky mountain coal-fields has made important discoveries and worked out the geological structure of the region, thus doing work of the greatest importance in connection with the discovery, following up, and working of coal seams.

Mr. R. W. Brock was engaged in making a structural survey of a part of Rossland camp, in which he was assisted by Mr. W. H. Boyd and Mr. A. G.