

especially from Great Britain. Here, as elsewhere in Canada, there are sources of information by the use of which the investor may be guarded from those who, having something to sell by flotation or otherwise, are not regardless of the truth in their efforts to be successful. In this Province, with its extensive undeveloped areas of coal, iron, copper, silver, etc., its remarkable timber and still more remarkable fisheries, its rich valleys capable of bountiful production of fruits, vegetables and other farm produce, as well as of live stock, it is not easy to guess either the limits to its eventual greatness or the rate of its progress relatively to its extended area.

As elsewhere, farm lands continue to advance in price, and so do fruit lands, but the railway development in the northern part of the Province and in other districts will give the settler without capital his pathway to success. The growth of cities in British Columbia is so rapid that large quantities of foodstuffs have at present to be imported from the United States, and it can readily be seen that agricultural settlement is necessary and should be profitable. Fruit growers had a profitable season both as to yield and to price, although the total yield is not large compared with what it will be when the areas being planted year after year are in bearing. Ranchmen and graziers had a good winter, and prices were high when their stock was marketed.

The salmon catch was 762,200 cases, against 629,460 cases in 1906, the year of natural comparison, the increase being in the catch on the northern rivers, while fishing on the Fraser River was again unsatisfactory. This industry was perhaps never in such a sound condition financially, nor so capably managed by the canners. With proper protection to the fish, and no effort should be spared to assure this, salmon fishing may be preserved as one of the leading sources of wealth in this Province.

In halibut fishing we own another great source of wealth, but we regret to have to repeat that nothing of much practical value is being done to stop the extensive poaching by Americans. If by indifference or because of the great difficulty of making Government believe that vigorous action is necessary we are robbed of the value of this natural asset, the damage to Canada will be incalculable. Deep-sea fishing is our opportunity to build up on the Pacific coast communities of white fishermen, without which we shall suffer as a nation in a much more serious manner than from the mere loss of money. Capital in a large way awaits the development of Pacific coast fishing. Markets exist in our own country, and halibut and herring fishing, if protected, will exceed the great salmon industry. Shall we preserve our rights?

The market for lumber opened in good shape, but business was checked sharply by the fear of crop failure in the prairie provinces. It improved again, however, when actual results were better known. Business arising from railway and mining work and from building in cities continued to be active throughout the year. During the dull months there was considerable cutting of prices but this was not so menacing to the prosperity of the mills as the dumping of United States lumber in Canada, owing to the dull state of trade in that country. The cost of lumber is increasing in British Columbia for various reasons, and a corresponding increase and greater stability in prices seem essential. The immediate outlook for this very important industry is good, apart from the prospect of more dumping from United States manufacturers.

In mining the most important incident was the purchase of the Dunsmuir coal mines by a company formed for the purpose. A very large increase in the output is contemplated. In the Crow's Nest and adjacent country there has been a great deal of activity in dealing in coal lands, and considerable development work has been done, which will undoubtedly result in a much enlarged output in a few years. The production of coal by the established mines has been irregular, and at the end of the year some mines were closed and some hundreds of miners discharged. The total output for British Columbia in 1910 was 3,009,000 tons, compared with 2,340,000 tons in 1909, one small mine, which declines to report, being in each case excluded. Copper mining and smelting in the Boundary country have had another good year. The additional increase in the capacity of the smelters now makes it possible to treat about 2,500,000 tons of ore annually, with a further material reduction in cost. The quantity of ore mined during 1910 was 1,699,000 tons, compared with 1,594,000 tons in 1909. The price of copper averaged 12.86 cents per pound, against 13.05 cents in 1909, but despite the low grade

of the ore, the processes are now so perfect that the companies did fairly well. A slight increase in price is expected, and is much to be desired. Labor conditions, which have in recent years been unsatisfactory, and which resulted in a strike for two months at one of the smelters, are now greatly improved because of better relations between the mine owners and the union. Transportation facilities are being greatly improved, there is a prospect of obtaining coal of good coking quality in the Boundary country, and other interests besides mining are actively engaged. There has been an improvement in the mining conditions of the Kootenays, more capital seeking investment there and more development work having been done on old and new properties. The total value of the ores smelted at Trail was about the same as in 1909—between five and six million dollars. Ore in some mines has been found at depths of from 1,000 to 1,150 feet, and other mines are working successfully at lower levels than in the past. Conditions as a whole have not been so hopeful for many years. Much interest awaits the result of experiments by the Dominion Government looking to a better system of treating the silver-lead ores so as to save the large proportion of zinc which is now lost.

While the growth of the city of Vancouver is more evident to the outsider, it is only an example of the progress in all Western towns and cities. The assessment value in 1910 is four times that of 1905, the building permits and clearing house returns are over five times as large, and the custom house returns are nearly four times as large as in that year.

YUKON DISTRICT.

The gold mining interests in the Yukon district have been passing through a period of change from small holdings with inadequate appliances to large mining companies with the most advanced machinery, so that while the population is still shrinking the output is increasing and wages for all classes are still very high. Extensive power plants have been erected, what is said to be the largest gold-gravel digging dredge in the world is at work, while by the use of steam pipes one company has increased by 42 the number of working days in 1910 as compared with 1909. The output will be from \$4,000,000 to \$4,500,000 in value, an increase of about 10 per cent. over the figures of 1909.

UNITED STATES.

Conditions generally have not been as prosperous in the United States as in Canada, although there are notable exceptions in some districts. Dissatisfaction because of the non-revision of the tariff and the high cost of living, concern at the falling off in exports and disgust at the exposures of commercial and public corruption, are responsible for this, rather than any failure in crops or natural resources.

In Washington the wheat and other grain crops were smaller than in 1909, and farmers who had made the mistake of holding in 1909 had to sell this year at lower prices. This pressure to sell, however, was largely due to extensive land speculation by farmers, happily checked for the time being. With a smaller yield and lower prices, this has been one of the poorest of recent years.

Fruit growing is increasing rapidly, especially in the irrigated districts, apples being the main crop. Of about 400,000 acres under irrigation probably 60,000 to 70,000 acres are orchard lands, and these are being increased at the rate of about 20,000 acres a year. Only a small portion is in bearing, but the product in money this year was about \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000, of which about \$5,000,000 was from apples. We hope that by next year proper statistics will be available. Dairying in this mild climate makes rapid progress but no actual figures are available.

The salmon and halibut industries have both had an excellent season, and prices have been so high that almost without exception the dealers are in very easy circumstances.

The lumber trade promised well in the spring but conditions during most of the year were quite unsatisfactory. Large stocks had been manufactured, and pressure to sell brought prices down to very unprofitable figures, so that even logs, which in this district are so near the mill as to permit of the supply being easily regulated, fell sharply in price. While the unsatisfactory conditions are mainly due to the state of trade in the United States generally, they are also due apparently to overproduction, a difficult matter to control