

price of copper the mines would have to close down, as the operations could not be continued excepting at a loss to the company. There was a good deal of unemployment at that time as a result of these conditions. The Government was asked to finance the sales of the company's blister-copper and to assume payment of any loss that might accrue because of the sale of copper below a stated price. This the then Government did.

If a similar situation arose, at Greenwood or any other metalliferous mining centre, the Government of to-day would do the same. I shall be able to demonstrate this by reciting what the present Government appeared willing to do in 1918. But first let me point out and emphasize the difference between the Granby situation in 1913 and the Greenwood situation in 1918.

The Greenwood smelter did not close down on account of the low price of copper, but on account of a shortage of ores. There was not sufficiently ample tonnage of ores available to make the continuous and steady operation of the smelter possible. The Granby had abundance of ore, but could not operate profitably at the price of copper at the time. The Greenwood smelter could not operate continuously because it could not procure sufficient ores. There is a very marked difference between these two sets of conditions. Let me be specific in my explanation of these conditions, because Mr. Bowser appears willing to promise anything to get his fingers again on the purse-strings of the Provincial Treasury.

I have here a table showing the gradual decline in the several classes of ores available to the Greenwood smelter. The statement covers a period of years and explains the situation completely.

Year.	Tonnage of Mother Lode Ores.	Grade of Ore.	Number of Furnaces operating.	Outside (Custom) Tonnage.
1910	359,000	1.20	3	36,000
1911	340,000	1.09	3	217,000
1912	410,000	0.96	2.8	288,000
1913	294,000*	0.81	2	259,000
1914	178,000	0.86	2	106,000
1915	112,000†	0.87	1	7,300
1916	265,000‡	0.95	1.2	23,200
1917	191,000	0.93	1	14,200
1918	162,000	0.87	1	24,000

* Thirteen months.

† Eight months.

‡ Six months.

An analysis of this table shows:—

- (a.) That tonnage from the Mother Lode was decreasing gradually, and that from 359,000 tons in 1910 the slump was to 191,000 tons in 1917;
- (b.) That the grade of ore decreased from 1.20 in 1910 to 0.87 in 1918;
- (c.) That the number of furnaces operated decreased from three in 1910-11 to two from 1912 to 1914 and to one from 1914 to 1918;
- (d.) That outside, or custom, ores decreased from 288,000 tons in 1912 to 24,000 tons in 1918.