SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The report of the United States consul at Fernie, Southeast Kootenay, for the quarter ended September 30th last, gives information relative to the exports to the United States from the Fernie district, which comprises the country lying north of, and contiguous to the International Boundary line, including Southern Kootenay and Boundary districts of British Columbia. The total exports of copper for the nine expired months of the year amounted to 4,741,861 lb., valued at $1,-320,468. In the quarter under review there was exported gold to the value of $171,329, silver $52,664, zinc $160,074, lead $1,042, and coal and coke $305,455. It is stated, further, that the British Columbia Copper Co., with smelting works at Greenwood, in Boundary district, will discontinue the shipment of copper across the International Boundary line after November 1st, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., of Trail, having contracted to handle the entire copper product of the former company, so that it will no longer be included in the exports to the United States. The Rambler-Cariboo Mines, Ltd., has contracted with a zinc smelting company in the United States to take the 800 to 1,000 tons of zinc concentrate accumulated at the company's mill in Slocan district.

East Kootenay.

Concerning the shortage of labor at Crowsnest collieries, to which reference was made in last month's correspondence, the following comment has since been published in provincial newspapers: "There is one feature in the problem which is affecting production to a considerable extent. The manager of the British Columbia Copper Co. has been in Crowsnest district for several days trying to secure a larger supply of coke for his company, but has had to go away without any definite promise as to an immediate increase, owing to scarcity of labor. Five hundred more miners could be used to advantage in the Crowsnest coal mines. Secretary Carter, of the United Mine Workers of America board, reports a similar want of miners in the Alberta fields. The Georgetown mines, which were closed a short time ago, released about 120 miners who were quickly employed by the Drumheller Co. Hundreds more could be given work in the same field, while Lethbridge and other fields are also looking for more men."

The Moyie correspondent of the Nelson Daily News recently wrote that at the St. Eugene mine, Moyie, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. is working the lower levels. Mr. L. A. Horne is local representative of the company and has charge of the work. The upper workings of the mine are being operated under a lease by a group of miners. The lessees are reported to have opened encouraging showings of silver-lead ore. It may be added that shipments of ore are made occasionally to Trail, where 422 tons of St. Eugene ore was received during the first half of the current year and 278 tons to October 7th of the current half; together 700 tons. Other mining properties in the neighborhood of Moyie on which work is being done are the Empire, situated east of the Society Girl group, with five men employed, and the Guindon, on the west side of Moyie lake, where some concentrating ore is being opened in the lower levels. In other parts of East Kootenay metalliferous mining is also being done, but the Sullivan mine continues to be the only large producer; its quarterly totals of ore production this year have been, for the quarter ended March 31st, 16,497 tons; June 30th, 19,941 tons; September 30th, 29,307 tons; total for nine months, 65,745 tons.

West Kootenay.

Ainsworth.—A highly colored account of a reported important strike of ore in the Gallagher mine was quite recently published in a Spokane, Washington, newspaper. While years ago a considerable quantity of high-grade ore was shipped from this property, its production has been very small in late years. The record of ore receipts at the Trail smeltery show that in 1916, to October 7th, 41 tons had been received from the Gallagher, and in 1915 only 15 tons, while none at all appeared in the receipts figures for 1914. It is not at all improbable that with sufficient money available for considerable development the Gallagher may be made an important producer, but those responsible for the published statements now being referred to appear to be suggesting advantages that it is doubtful if the property possesses. For instance, there is the statement that "the Gallagher is surrounded by the Highland No. 1, and Silver Hoard and is a mile from the Florence." Now it is a very long mile from any one of those four mines to the Gallagher. Probably the reason the Highland and No. 1 were mentioned in this connection was that they have been the only considerable producers in the camp in 1915 and 1916.

Another objectionable movement in Spokane is the lately announced organization of the Leo Mining Co., "capitalized for 1,000,000 shares at 5 cents, of which 200,000 shares are to be held in the treasury." If this means that the promoters hold four-fifths of the shares the opinion may be expressed that anyone foolish enough to buy treasury shares at five cents while the promoters have so large a proportion of the total number of shares which it might suit them to sell at one cent a share, or even one-tenth of a cent, deserves to lose his money. Again, reference is made in connection with this promotion that "north of the property of the Leo company is the Banker mine, being worked by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada. On the Highlander, adjoining on the south $200,-000 worth of work has been done. Other highly developed properties lie on the south and west." It is true that in 1914 the Consolidated Co. shipped 703 tons of ore from the Banker and Maestro properties, but for two years following the outbreak of the European war no work has been done on either. Nor has anything been done on the Highlander for years. Here again the names of well known mines have been used seemingly to mislead. Many productive mines in West Kootenay are being worked by Spokane operators, some of them with considerable profit to those who have been enterprising enough to finance their development and equipment, and the province can well do with much more of that desirable and needed class of support to its mining industry, but there are, unfortunately, other kinds, of which the less there is the better for legitimate mining.

Slocan.—The total quantity of ore received at Trail from mines in Slocan division during nine months ended September 30th, 1916, was 12,240 tons for the corresponding period of 1915 it was 8,356 tons. The increase has been, therefore, nearly 50 per cent. Last year 16 mines, big and little, were on the shipping list; this year, there are 21. Seven properties on last year's list, with a total production, to September 30th, of 140 tons of ore, have not been producers this year; on the