furnaces, but at the present time one blast furnace only is working, and immediate prospects for the steel trade are not good.

The Nova Scotia Steel Company have made large reductions in their operations both at Sydney Mines and at New Glasgow, and it is understood they have laid off the blast furnace at Sydney Mines, thereby of course involving a considerable reduction in coal production.

At the other Nova Scotian collieries only partial time is being worked, and the Springhill Mines appear to be the only collieries on the mainland that are in full operation.

During the week ending 22nd August the Dominion Coal Company expect to despatch almost 100,000 tons of coal to the St. Lawrence markets. This is a pregnant fact seeing that the Empire is at war with a nation that boasts the second most powerful navy in the World. Some very foolish reports have been disseminated at points west of Glace Bay of hostile aeroplanes and German cruisers shelling Glace Bay, and of "German spies" attacking the wireless stations near here, and if the reports in the newspapers regarding happenings in other parts of Canada have no more foundation than the newspaper reports about Sydney and Glace Bay, readers are being served with a beautiful array of lies. It says a good deal for the sound common-sense of the mining community here that they have not allowed themselves to be stampeded by the baseless rumors which have been assiduously disseminated; and that they have served their country in probably the best possible way by sticking to work and earning money against the lean months which are ahead. The Dominion Coal Company has had the honor of being able to coal several of the warships of the Admiralty which have made Halifax their rendezvous, and generally we have realized the silent, invisible but all-encircling power of Britain's Navy, which has enabled us to mine and ship coal unmolested as in the piping times of peace.

As to the immediate future of the coal trade in Nova Scotia it is, like everything else at the moment, on the knees of the Gods. Coal, however, is one of those commodities which must be had, and while, of course, the coal trade must be affected by the suspension of many branches of transportation and industry which will accompany the continuance of the war, there is no reason to anticipate that the coal industry will be affected out of proportion to other branches of industry in Canada, and it is reasonable to suppose that it will fare better than many other industries. It is hardly necessary to point out that in certain contingencies, which it is hoped will not arise, the coalfields of Nova Scotia would be the only available coal supply for Canada east of the Great Lakes.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In British Columbia, as elsewhere, one of the results of the European war is the partial suspension of mining and smelting operations. To what farther extent mineral production and development of mining properties will be unfavorably affected is not yet known, but it may be expected under the circumstances that metals cannot for the time be marketed, and some of them may not be exported even if a market be soon open to them, that most of the mines having as their chief product copper, lead or zinc, will be closed temporarily. Already the Granby Consolidated Co.'s smelting works in Boundary district are inoperative, and, as a consequence, shipment of ore from the company's big mines in Phoenix camp has been stopped for the time being. The British Columbia Copper Co.'s smeltery at Greenwood is also to be idle for a while, with no present prospect of an early resumption of ore smelting at it even should relief from adverse conditions attributable to the war be obtained. What will happen at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.'s works at Trail seems to be as yet uncertain, except that little, if any, custom ore will be purchased until conditions become once more favorable to a continuance of the custom smelting business. It is thought probable that the company will continue operating its gold-copper mines in Rossland camp, since the chief valuable metal constituent of Rossland ores is gold, the proportion of which is indicated by the following official figures of last year's production. The total value of the metals produced in Trail Creek mining division in 1913 was $3,281,771, of which $2,831,873, or a little more than 86 per cent. was for gold. However, as the recovery of metals is by smelting in the blast furnace, it may be that there are difficulties in the way of having the matte converted and the gold-copper bullion refined. The position is different at other mines the company is operating; for instance, the valuable metal contents of ore from the Silver King mine, near Nelson, are copper and silver; of that from the Sullivan Group mine, in East Kootenay, lead with a little silver; of that from the No. 1 and Highland mines, in Ainsworth camp, silver and lead. This being so, it is hardly to be expected that production of ore on as large a scale when conditions are normal will be continued. Turning to the coal mines of East Kootenay—since the temporary cessation of smelting operations at Boundary district smelting works reduces considerably the demand for coke, it is evident that the mines of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. at Coal creek and Michel will be affected thereby. There is a large proportion of slack in the coal mined at these places, and practically all of this is made into coke. With coke requirements comparatively small, the production of such coal as is mined in greater part at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.'s mines, is likely to be seriously checked. Even if the demand for screened coal be good, storage facilities for slack are not sufficient to admit of the accumulation of so large a quantity as would result from continuing production at the usual rate. So it may be expected that the Coal Creek and Michel mines will make a smaller output during the period of total or partial suspension of smelting operations. The Corbin Coal and Coke Co. will probably continue to make an output of approximately 500 tons of coal a day, for coke making has not yet been undertaken by this company, nor is the market it usually has for its coal likely to be closed to it by war troubles. However, the foregoing notes are but the conclusions of the writer; it may be that conditions of which he is not aware will bring about different results to those he has indicated.

East Kootenay.

The probable effect of recent occurrences on mining in this district is outlined above. There being but one metalliferous mine—the Sullivan—that has been making an important output of late, the ill-effects of the metal marketing difficulty will be felt chiefly in the locality in which that mine is situated, although, of course, train crews will be affected here if shipment of ore be stopped, though in much smaller degree than in connection with that of coal and coke. Interest in placer-gold mining in Fort Steele mining division having been in some measure renewed lately, it may be that more attention will be given to this branch of the