

The report of the president of the British Columbia Copper Company to the annual meeting of stockholders, held recently, owing to exceptional conditions which unfortunately very materially reduced the profits obtained during the period under review, was not nearly so satisfactory to stockholders as, during the early part of the year, had been expected it would be. There is, however, this much encouragement to be derived from it—the fiscal year's accounts show a surplus of \$176,041 (including cash on hand and in bank \$56,409); the company owns one of the latest and best equipped smelters, having three blast furnaces and copper converting plant, and a treatment capacity of 2,000 tons of ore per day; and its mines, which are equipped with sufficient modern machinery to regularly maintain a production of ore in excess of the capacity of the smelting works, have been so thoroughly developed that there is blocked out in them more ore than the large quantity heretofore taken out. Given a moderate advance in the price of copper and the necessary "honest co-operation of employees" referred to in last month's *Mining Record*, with other conditions as above stated, and a much larger measure of financial success may reasonably be looked for. The company's management and methods have throughout been such as to merit abundant success, and it is hoped it will soon achieve and thereafter long enjoy it.

The board of directors of the Tyee Copper Company, Limited, in London, England, have appointed Mr. W. H. Trewartha James (who is a member of the well-known firm of James Brothers, consulting mining engineers, of London) the company's general manager, and he will take charge of its affairs from the beginning of April. His headquarters in British Columbia will be at the company's offices, Bank of Montreal Chambers, Victoria. The action of the directors of the Tyee Copper Company in appointing to that position a mining engineer of such high professional standing and acknowledged ability may be regarded as indicating an earnest intention to maintain the excellent name the company enjoys, and well merits, as a thoroughly business-like and successful mining and smelting organization. Further, it is no secret that it is actively seeking another good mining property, so that it may ensure a sufficient supply of ore to keep its smelting works in regular operation and, as well, has arranged for the early enlargement of the treatment capacity of the smelter, so as to be in a position to also smelt all custom ores obtainable on conditions that will allow of its earning a reasonable profit thereon. Mr. W. Gardner, who has been acting general manager pending the appointment of a successor to the late Mr. Clermont Livingston, will shortly after the arrival of Mr. Trewartha James, leave Victoria on his return to London to there resume his ordinary duties as secretary of the company.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR REVIEW OF MINING IN THE WEST IN 1907.

REVIEWING industrial and labour conditions in Canada during 1907, the *Labour Gazette*, published by the Dominion Department of Labour, says of mining in Alberta and British Columbia:

Conditions varied considerably at different periods of the year. After an exceptionally busy winter season in the collieries, a stoppage of work which occurred during April, as a result of the failure of negotiations between the operators and workmen employed in the coal mines of Alberta and Eastern British Columbia, was the cause of widespread embarrassment. The domestic fuel supply was low in the districts dependent on these mines; the railway lines were in a congested condition from a prevailing shortage of cars and the heavy immigration and freight movement, and were urgently in need of steam-coal; and the smelters which treat the ores of the metalliferous mines of British Columbia were short of coke. The dispute was settled under the "Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907," which had gone into effect during March. Immediately thereafter, production in the collieries became very heavy, being limited only by the supply of labour and cars obtainable, the former, in particular, being exceedingly limited. The smelters and metal miners were also enabled to resume activity. Wages in these branches in view of the prevailing scarcity of men, were materially advanced on July 1.

On Vancouver Island the collieries were worked to full capacity throughout the summer and autumn seasons, with labour in demand. The payroll in all of these was heavier during this period than in any previous year, notwithstanding that a shortage of coke caused considerable embarrassment at the smelters during September and October. This was later made the subject of an investigation by the Provincial Department of Mines, but as the supply was by that time adequate no further action was taken.

In the closing months of the year, fluctuations in the prices of copper and silver caused a marked falling off in activity in the Kootenay districts. A number of mines and smelters closed down, and the staffs of others were reduced. Wages, also, at Rossland and elsewhere were reduced to the rates in force prior to July 1. With the increase in the supply of labour thus obtainable the shortage at the Crow's Nest Pass and Vancouver Island collieries was relieved.

Reports with regard to the gold output of the Atlin Lake mines were favourable, but returns from the Yukon were smaller than in 1906.

A Royal Commission was appointed by the Government of Alberta to investigate and report on all matters concerning the relations of employers and employees in the coal mining industry of the province.