

# Mining Throughout British Columbia

## Receipts at Trail—Anyox Situation—Consolidated Dividend—Trail Treatment of Ore—Granby Production—Copper Developments on Vancouver Island—Notes.

The following is a list of the ore received at the Trail Smelter during the week ending February 28th, 1919:

Mine.	Location.	Gross Tons.
Centre Star,	Rossland	2,051
Emma,	Coltern	665
Eastmount,	Enterprise	35
Echo,	Silverton	158
Horn Silver,	Similkameen	49
Josie,	Rossland	446
Nickelby,	Ainsworth	5
North Star,	Kimberly	80
Paradise,	Athalmer	73
Rambler	Cariboo, Rambler	63
Sullivan (Zinc),	Kimberly	2,962
Sullivan (Lead),	Kimberly	709
Spokane Trinket,	Ainsworth	45
St. Eugene,	Moyie	45
Total		7,386

A press despatch from Anyox states that the Granby mine and smelter employees at this point, numbering approximately 200, after deliberating for six days over the proposed reduction in wages and the return to the sliding scale which prevailed for many years prior to 1917, have decided to reject the offer of the company. The vote of the miners showed a bare majority of nineteen against the company's proposals.

The entire plant has been shut down since last Sunday, when the smelter was damaged by fire, and will remain closed until repairs can be made. In the meantime the hope is expressed that the labor problem will be solved.

Everything at the mine and smelter is quiet and the company is anticipating no trouble with the men. Many of the employees are men of families residing here. The daily loss in wages is placed at \$7,500.

In a statement made to the men on March 1st it was pointed out that the company could not continue production at war-time wages, for peace-time prices for copper. The copper market in both the United States and Canada has practically collapsed. To meet new situations and afford some relief towards solving problems of unemployment, the company made several offers including bonuses and reductions in the cost of living, in order to continue in operation. Many copper plants affected in the same way as that of Granby, in the United States, have been compelled to close entirely. One notable exception is that of Butte, where the men returned to work after a cut of \$1.00 per day in wages, and after they had been on strike for ten days.

At the present time there has been produced and still remains unsold copper from Anyox amounting to more than 16,000,000 lbs., much of it turned out since the date of the armistice.

The copper situation as it affects the United States, and therefore possessing practically the same bearing in Canada, is that material bettering of conditions in the industry must await the signing of the peace treaty. Until that time comes the work of reconstruction in devastated sections of Europe cannot be undertaken on a large scale.

Conference between the copper producers and the miners at Washington in February resulted in a thorough understanding and the position of the men employed was strengthened by the agreement of the United States not to dump the vast stores of copper on the market at falling prices in order that, with a return to the sliding scale, which makes the miner a partner with the producer in the profits of the output, the question of unemployment would not be so acute.

Wages reductions therefore took place in many Arizona camps, Utah and Montana. Southeastern Alaska copper producers also reduced wages, notable among them being that of the Gastineau properties, where \$4.00 per day was set as the maximum wage, with board at \$1.25 per day, the wage figure being much under that offered by the Granby Company to its men.

The normal consumption of copper before the war was about 125,000,000 pounds per month, divided nearly equally in the United States between home and export trade, the larger being export. When peace is finally proclaimed and the necessary foreign credits are established, normal sales may be resumed. In domestic marketing manufacturing industry suddenly finds itself cut off from its business on account of the cancellation of munitions programmes. Foreign countries with stocks of copper are prohibiting further imports until such time as the copper already purchased at advanced prices can be marketed.

The directors of the Consolidated company declared the usual quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, amounting to \$261,936, payable April 1. This will make a total of \$5,257,531 declared altogether by the company—or something less than at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the capital stock of \$15,000,000 for the 13 years of the life of the company.

Considering the unsettled state of the metal market since the armistice on November 11th, and the total lack of market of any kind for lead and copper and practically the same for spelter, the showing of ore shipments to the Trail smelter for the first two months of 1919 makes a quite satisfactory total, 65,733 tons of ore and concentrates having been accepted here in that time.

The total is even more than in the same months of 1918—when it was 61,393—the war being at its full at that time. But a year ago Trail was just recovering from the smeltermen's strike of five weeks that ended just before Christmas. The 1919 total for the first two months compares with 77,537 tons received in the same time in 1917, when there were no ripples worth mentioning on the horizon, and the demand for metals from overseas was most insistent.

For purposes of comparison the following table will show the ore tonnage received here at the Consolidated smelter for January and February, separately, in 1917, 1918, and 1919:

	1917	1918	1919
January	36,570	27,404	35,283
February	40,967	33,989	30,450
Total	77,537	61,393	65,733

The Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company produced 3,156,486 pounds of copper in January, according to a New York report. This may be compared with 2,955,450 produced in the previous month and is the largest since September, when the production was 3,371,535 pounds. The production in January, 1918, was 4,209,393, or over 1,000,000 pounds more than in January, 1919. An estimate on the earnings in January is made difficult by declines in the metal market during that month, but some basis is provided by the report for February,