

Development of the Lydia group, on the North Thompson River, is being attended with much success, the ore being of high grade. This property is owned by G. Fennell and others of Chu Chua. The bond has been taken by W. H. Aldridge of the Gunn-Thompson firm, of New York, and development work is under supervision of R. H. Stewart and P. W. Racey, of Vancouver.

Dealing with the earnings of the great mining companies, F. A. Starkey, who has just been re-elected as President of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia, figures the earnings as follows:

The Granby, \$8,699,954; Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, \$3,947,851; Standard Silver Lead Company, \$2,700,000; Hedley Gold Mines, \$2,304,000; Le Roi No. 2, \$1,547,577; Canada Copper Company, \$615,398; Rambler Cariboo, \$542,500; Mother Lode, \$137,500; Utica mines, \$64,000; sundry other properties which have been absorbed by other companies or waiting to be further developed, \$9,831,000.

The Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, of Trail, reports another epoch in its history through the splendid showing of a metal value of \$1,300,000. The year's production of 10,000 tons of zinc which gave a value of \$3,000,000, marks the greatest output in the history of Canada. In addition they produced 22,000 tons of lead, all of which gave, after paying back a very large loan to the Imperial Munition Board, and an item of \$450,000 which was written down on the zinc plant, profits to be divided among the shareholders at \$1,076,838.

The Surf Inlet Mine on Princess Royal Island made a net earning of \$33,488 for the month of February.

In the year 1917 the Cork-Province mine in the Slokan shipped a little less than 500 tons of ore to the Consolidated smelter at Trail, and the manager of that property states that his property has been seriously affected by the new treatment rates put into effect in January by the smelter.

In the same year the United Copper, of Chewelah, Wash., shipped less than 5,000 tons of ore to the same reduction works, and on the same date as the other statement appeared, the management of the United Copper asserts that, his opinion, the rates charged by the Consolidated Co. are fair to miners when the higher cost of labor, supplies, etc., are taken into consideration, and deprecates the talk

of encouraging the establishment of a smelter in Spokane to treat British Columbia ores, characterizing it as absurd.

"I am not in sympathy with the attacks on the smelter, especially the Trail smelter of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company," said Conrad Wolfe, president of the United Copper Mining Company.

"It is true that the Consolidated has raised its rates, but the increases have been in proportion only to the increase in the cost of labor and supplies.

"The management of the Trail plant has been more than fair at all times with the mine operators of British Columbia as well as of Washington. Farther, it has helped them out wherever it could, even to supplying equipment for some of the smaller properties. The Consolidated, in my opinion, is quoting rates as low as possible consistent with a profit.

"The agitation for a smelter in Spokane is absurd. It is indulged in by a certain element who are not shippers. While there are a few shippers in Washington they cannot supply enough ore to maintain the operation of a smelter for twenty-four hours.

"Trail ranks with the fairest smelting concerns in the Northwest."

"The mining situation of the Kootenays is more serious than people realize," said W. E. Zwicky, manager of the Cork-Province mine, British Columbia, while here recently. "It results from the new terms made by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company.

"For illustration, the smelter charge on lead ore from the Cork-Province mine was increased \$2 a ton a year ago. An increase of \$8 a ton has been made since.

"The effect has been a partial suspension at many mines owned by companies other than the Consolidated and the proportionate reduction in forces and general expenditures. The change affects a large number of miners and commercial interests. Some of the producers can meet these rates. But why should they? Why should they give up 50 to 60 per cent. of the metallic content of their ore in payment for smelting? This is in addition for freight.

"Another hardship is imposed by the penalty on zinc. This is 81 cents a unit, or above 2 per cent. No such penalty is imposed by smelters on this side of the international line. No penalty is imposed below 5 per cent., and in some instances none below 10 per cent. on this side."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1916

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$74,620,103; Lode Gold, \$91,350,784; Silver, \$41,358,012; Lead, \$36,415,124; Copper, \$114,559,364; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$7,212,759; Coal and Coke, \$165,829,315; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$26,697,835; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1916 show an

Aggregate Value of \$558,560,715

Production for Year Ending December, 1916, \$42,290,462

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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