

# BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCIAL TIMES

A Journal of Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Real Estate, Timber and Mining

Vol. VI. No. 14

VANCOUVER, JULY 19, 1919

SINGLE COPY 10c  
THE YEAR \$2.00

## British Columbia Mining in a Year of Progress

Minister of Mines' Report for 1918 shows Increased Progress to \$41,782,474—Report prepared by W. F. Robertson is replete in Mining Information and Data—Exhibits Great Possibilities for Development.

The report of the Honourable William Sloan, Minister of Mines for the Province of British Columbia is at hand and indeed is a valuable document. The mine reports for British Columbia are noted for their standard of excellence among Government publications everywhere and this year the provincial mineralogist, Mr. Wm. Fleet Robertson, has undoubtedly surpassed his previous efforts in the mass of mining and geological data presented. Practically no phase of the mining business or any of the districts are slighted in the treatment presented in this 1918 report. The full benefit of previous legislation makes its first appearance with the full reports of the districts' engineers created under the Act two years ago. These detailed reports are presented in the body of the volume and every section of the province and every mineral occurrence is herein recorded.

The chief criticism that arises from a perusal of the report is the fact that with a province so rich in mineral as British Columbia is known to be, yet its mineral production for the last year amounts to less than \$42,000,000. The province is only at the beginning of the development of its mineral possibilities so that its future mineral growth is very bright and is in reality a virgin field for the prospector, the mining engineer, and the capitalist, although it has been on the mining map since the time of the Cariboo rush in the fifties of the past century. But let Mr. Robertson talk for himself:

"The gross value of the mineral production for 1918 was \$41,782,474, an increase from that of the year 1917 of \$4,772,082, or 12.9 per cent. The gross value of the metallic minerals recovered in 1918 was \$27,910,278, which represents an increase from last year of \$625,804, a percentage increase of 2.3 per cent.

"Only once in the history of the Province's mineral statistics had this output been exceeded, and that was in 1916,

when the year's mineral output amounted to \$42,290,462, only 1.2 per cent. greater than 1918; and it must be remembered that 1916 was a phenomenal year, with metal prices temporarily inflated, due to war conditions. As compared with earlier years, the production of 1918 shows up even more favourably, for it exceeds the next highest recorded production—\$32,440,800, made in 1912—by \$9,341,674, or about 29 per cent.

"As the value of the products of the metalliferous mines this year was only slightly greater than in the preceding year, the great increase made was therefore almost entirely attributable to the products of the collieries, which show outputs, both of coal and coke, exceeding those of the preceding year; the increased output of coal being some 152,270 tons, while that of coke was 28,062 tons.

"In addition to this, the price of coal has been raised by the exigencies of the war, and these two factors combined have caused the value of the colliery products this year to amount to \$12,833,994, an increase over the preceding year of \$4,349,651.

"The increase in the selling price of coal has been allowed at various times by the Dominion Government Fuel Controller, until, as nearly as can be calculated, the average price of coal for the year over the Province as a whole has been approximately \$5 a ton, and the similar average price for coke about \$7 a ton. What additional value this increased selling price gave to this year's output of coal and coke may be realized by comparison with the average selling prices assumed in former years of \$3.50 a ton for coal and \$6 a ton for coke. This additional value this year would amount to \$3,642,334.

"As regards the products of the metalliferous mines of the Province, as already noted, the combined values of these products shows an increase over the preceding year of \$625,804, an increase which under many adverse conditions prevailing is very encouraging.

"The combined output of placer and lode gold shows an increase of \$860,622—a rather pleasant surprise considering the greatly increased operating costs and the fact that the selling price of gold remains stationary.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING IN A YEAR OF PROGRESS

#### REPORT OF COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

#### HIGH COST OF LIVING COMMITTEE REPORT

#### LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1918

#### RECENT ANNUAL REPORTS

#### MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### TRUST COMPANY NOTES, COMPANY NOTES, INSURANCE, MUNICIPAL, LUMBER, MINING AND OTHER INFORMATION