

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

With the exception of the Boundary district, where there does not appear to be any prospect of an early resumption of copper mining and smelting operations, the outlook for metalliferous mining in the Province is somewhat brighter, though there does not seem to be much change so far as concerns interior coal mines. Ore receipts at Trail show a fairly high total for the last fortnight, namely 16,574 tons, of which, however, the greater part—12,130 tons—was from Rossland mines. East Kootenay's proportion was 2,362 tons, nearly all of lead ore from the Consolidated Co.'s Sullivan group mine. Production in Ainsworth, Slocan and Nelson divisions is much decreased, yet a larger number of mines is being operated, chiefly doing development work, than might have been expected under present unfavorable conditions.

News from the Cariboo placer-gold field is generally satisfactory, a cool and rainy summer having kept up a good supply of water for hydraulicking purposes, with resultant benefit to the mine operators of that district. Similarly, satisfactory news has come from the Atlin gold field, where there continues to be much activity on a number of gold bearing streams.

Little news is available concerning what is being done at the copper mines of the Britannia, Granby Consolidated and Tacoma Steel Co., the last-mentioned being owner of the Marble Bay mine on Texada island, but all are being worked. The development of ore at considerable depth in the mine of the Portland Canal Tunnels, Ltd., near Stewart, Portland Canal, is regarded as promising to be of much importance. If present indications of the occurrence of ore in commercial quantity be borne out by later developments, there may be expected to come about, as soon as industrial matters resume their normal condition, a marked change in that camp, since much more deep-level development will, no doubt, be undertaken.

Statistics of gold bullion receipts at the Dominion Assay Office, Vancouver, show a decided increase for the current fiscal year as compared with those for the corresponding months of 1913. For the month of August, 1914, approximate, the figures are 22,500 oz. of bullion, valued at \$311,000, as compared with 12,000 oz., valued at \$161,000, for August, 1913. For the expired five months—April-August—of the present fiscal year, the totals are 103,000 oz., valued at \$1,385,000, against 35,700 oz., valued at \$529,300, for the corresponding period of 1913.

West Kootenay.

Ainsworth.—During the two weeks ended September 10, ore receipts at Trail from Ainsworth mines were smaller than in August. They were 232 tons from the Bluebell, 152 tons from the Maestro, and 38 tons from the Utica. Neither the Highland nor the No. 1 mine appeared on the list during the first part of the month.

Slocan.—On the whole, there is an improvement in mining conditions in the Slocan mining division. The Rambler-Cariboo mine and mill did not long remain inoperative. Both are again active, and shipment of ore has been resumed, though only on a small scale. Announcement has been made that the Wonderful has been leased. In the Cody neighborhood, both the Surprise and Noble Five are being worked, though neither is sending out ore. Several lessees are working in the Reco, where there is reported to be another good showing of ore opened. A little high grade silver ore is being brought out from the Mountain Con, which is

situated at a high elevation and in the mountains beyond Cody. The lessees of the Idaho-Alamo property are getting ore ready for shipment whenever conditions shall admit of its being sent out.

In Silverton camp, the Standard is giving employment to a number of men who are doing deadwork, but no ore is being stoped nor is the concentrating mill running. A quantity of zinc concentrate that had accumulated is being sent to a zinc smeltery in the United States. The Silverton Mines, Ltd., is operating both mine and concentrating mill, the former comprising the Hewitt-Lorna Doone group.

Nelson.—Ore from the Molly Gibson mine, in this division, has been arriving at Trail; in August 158 tons was received, and during the week ended Sept. 10, 147 tons. Work is being done on the Pingree property, on Forty-nine creek, distant from Nelson about a dozen miles. Mr. F. E. Pearce is now superintendent here, and he has opened some promising showings of ore.

In the Sheep Creek and Salmo parts of the district shipment of lead ore has been stopped for the time being. The Queen gold mine and 20 stamp mill have not been affected by the generally unfavorable conditions, for these are being continued in operation. A recently published report is to the effect that a shortage of water for power purposes has necessitated closing for a while the Motherlode Sheep Creek Mining Co.'s gold-saving mill.

Boundary and Similkameen.

The last report published of the Jewel gold mine, in Long Lake camp, eight miles from Greenwood, was to the effect that operations were continuing to be profitable, and that ore was being mined up to the crushing capacity of the 15 stamp mill running there.

The Hedley Gold Mining Co.'s 40 stamp mill at Hedley, Similkameen, is being operated as usual. It is stated that this company, scenting possible trouble ahead, before the European war cut off supplies, purchased sufficient cyanide to meet its needs for a considerable time, so that its progress is not being interfered with by any shortage of mill supplies. The directors declared the customary dividend of three per cent. and bonus of two per cent., the total of profit thus distributed on September 30 having been \$60,000.

Coast.

The collection of British Columbia minerals that has been made by officials of the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission is described as being a very good one—generally representative, and the specimens carefully selected, so that this Province should have as comprehensive a display included in Canada's mineral exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition next year as the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, which have long been well represented in the Dominion mineral collection for exhibition purposes. Mr. W. D. Dalglish, who is in charge of the mineral section, after having spent several months in British Columbia, is about to proceed to San Francisco, to there prepare for next year's big exposition. Mr. Wm. Thomlinson, who has been very assiduous in his endeavors to secure the best samples of ores and other minerals obtainable in the parts of the Province assigned to his charge as mineral collector, will remain in British Columbia to attend to forwarding to San Francisco all the minerals gathered in the Province for display in California. Both men have been thorough in their work of collecting specimens of minerals, and the result will doubtless eventually be of much advantage to the mining industry of the Province.