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The mining convention of the British Columbia Chambers of Mines which was held in Vancouver on March 17th, 18th and 19th, at the Hotel Vancouver and in the basement of the Vancouver Block, was more successful than those who originated it had anticipated. Outside delegates were enthusiastic in their praise of the character of the convention and acclaimed it as the best they had ever attended. Frequent comment was made that the convention was free from any objectionable features, such as biased statements, efforts to sell shares, and such like. Certainly Mr. J. D. Kearns, manager of the convention; Dr. Edwin T. Hodge, in charge of the programme; and Mr. S. J. Crocker, of the B. C. Equipment Company, in charge of exhibits, are to be congratulated on the excellent work which they did, and also Mr. A. M. Whiteside, president of the Chamber of Mines, who exercised general supervision. The Provincial Government co-operated in every way possible, and practically the entire mine service was at the disposal of the convention. The Honourable William Sloan, Minister of Mines, is to be complimented on the enlightened spirit with which he viewed the convention.

The objects of the convention were in general to present from a geological and mining point of view the Province of British Columbia, and to discuss the mining industry as a whole, with particular application to the province. The benefits to the industry arising from the convention will be felt for a long time ahead, and we venture the statement that the progress of the industry in British Columbia will be accelerated by reason of the valuable and authentic information given, the exhibition of sound business mining sense, and the changed view-point which those not familiar with mining obtained from the sessions held.

Some valuable and constructive ideas were presented by the speakers. One conclusion which was inevitable from the descriptions of the mineral districts of the province as presented by the district engineers, was that British Columbia furnishes a very large and wide field for the exploitation of mineral resources. Those mineral resources are exploited in the first instance by the prospector. Prospectors since the outbreak of war have been in ever-decreasing numbers, as they felt the call of the country. In consequence new mineral areas have not been brought to the attention of the mining business interests. It is essential that prospecting be done on a large and intensive scale, and in this connection one of the speakers said that perhaps the British Columbia Chamber of Mines might be the centre for the grub-staking

The services of this journal are offered through an inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be reliable and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

of reliable prospectors with a view of bringing new mineral areas into the development field. The province presents perhaps the largest mineral area, yet intensively unprospected. The province holds great promise, and strong efforts should be made to stimulate prospecting and to seek to educate those hardy individuals to prospect along sound geologic and mining lines.

The paper of Mr. Rickard, which is presented on another page, was indeed valuable not only to the delegates present, but to the business men of Vancouver who heard it. Mr. Rickard emphasized the element of risk in mineral development, and showed that risk was the very nature of the business. Miners and those that participate in mining were adventurers. There is one benefit that we hope the business interests who take an interest in mining will take to heart, and that is that it is a great deal better to take a share in the actual development of a mine or prospect which is well directed and managed along sound business lines than to buy shares in a company which is sometimes promoted for the purpose of developing a prospect, but is more frequently promoted for the purpose of mining the purse of the public.

The most marked feature of the Provincial Forest Branch report recently made public is that of the large increase in pulp and paper production of 1918 over 1917, the value being \$10,517,250 in 1918, as compared with \$6,835,034 in 1917. The most important item of this value was the increase in newsprint from 75,833 tons to 112,206 tons. With the large undertakings under way for the development of the pulp resources of the province, these figures will be increased from year to year, and it seems likely that within the next decade British Columbia will dominate the paper-making industry of the Pacific Coast and will not be without some favourable comparison with the production of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

One phase of the report that appears from a cursory examination tends to show that the best interests of the lumber industry in British Columbia is to develop the local prairie and Ontario market, and, second, to develop the water-borne trade of the Pacific Ocean.

The place of British Columbia lumber export trade, except in so far as a spasmodic demand may develop in Europe, is with Japan, China, Australia, and New Zealand. We think that the development of this trade will redound to more permanent benefit to the provincial industry than seeking the trade of the Atlantic Coast of North America and Europe, which is more exclusively that of the United States, Eastern Canada, and Northern Europe.

While the Provincial Government is doing excellent work in trade extension and opening up markets for lumber which the British Columbia product has not hitherto had, it nevertheless remains as an essential requirement of the British Columbia industry that the prairie market shall be exclusively our own. The cultivation of the prairie field should be made to such an extent that all lumber manufactured elsewhere shall be precluded, and if this is not done, it is, in our opinion, the fault of the private lumber interests of the province, for which they will have only themselves to blame.