

direction of bringing about an agreement between the Western Coal Operators' Association and District No. 18, United Mine Workers of America. For some unexplained reason the board took a recess of three weeks after having visited a number of collieries and taken evidence. Whether or not operators and miners will be any nearer to a settlement when the board shall resume its sittings is not known to the public at the time this is being written. Meanwhile the various collieries are idle and the U. M. W. A. local organization is giving its members a little assistance in the shape of provisions. Opinion outside of those immediately concerned seems to be that there is no present prospect of an agreement being arrived at without further delay.

Cariboo and Cassiar.—Little news is obtainable thus early in the season from the placer mining camps of these districts. Hydraulic mining has been fairly started and, there having been an abundant fall of snow through the winter, water is plentiful for gravel sluicing. If the backward spring be not followed by an early hot summer, the season will probably be long and results correspondingly profitable. On the whole there should be a larger total recovery of gold from hydraulic mining operations this year than for several recent years, for some of the larger mines are better equipped and their water supply facilities are larger than in the past.

East Kootenay.—The Sullivan group is now the largest producer of ore in this district, the output of the St. Eugene mine, also operated by the Consolidated M. and S. Company, having fallen off considerably. A comparatively small production is expected from the Society Girl mine, and possibly the Aurora will also send out some ore. There is not likely to be any important change in conditions in the northern part of Fort Steele mining division until after the construction of the Kootenay Central Railway shall have provided railway transportation facilities. Similarly, lode mining in Windermere division will remain at a standstill, so far as production is concerned, although it may be some mine owners will be encouraged to resume development work now that the construction of the railway has been definitely promised and is being proceeded with. Placer mining will be on a small scale on Wild Horse and several other creeks, while on Perry Creek a decided improvement is looked for in connection with the enterprise of some Vancouver men who last year put in a steam shovel to admit of the gravel being handled in larger quantity. Coal mining and coke making in East Kootenay have been stopped for the time being. It was reported about the end of May that an underground fire had necessitated the sealing up of one of the Michel mines of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, but fortunately there had not been any loss of life in connection therewith. The Corbin coal mine, which had an agreement with its men continuing to a later period than that of the larger mines, is now, like the others, not producing coal. Idle miners and coke makers, while not permitted to work themselves, daily see coke from Pennsylvania being hauled over the railway through the Crow's Nest Pass district, on its way to smelting works in Kootenay and Boundary districts.

West Kootenay.—In Ainsworth division, endeavours are being made to extend lode mining operations in the vicinity of the town of Ainsworth, where several properties are being developed. Across the lake, the Blue Bell is still idle. Up the north fork of Kaslo Creek work is being done at three or four mines which from time to time ship ore. The Utica, on Paddy's Peak Mountain, and the Whitewater group, situated nearer the divide between Ainsworth and Slocan divisions, are both being developed with a prospect of again shipping ore if proposed arrangements for a resumption of traffic on the Kaslo & Slocan Railway shall be carried out.

The outlook is favourable for Slocan mining division, especially as regards McGuigan Basin and Four-mile Creek camps. The early construction of a spur from the C. P. R. line from Sandon to Slocan Lake is looked for, a route for this having

been surveyed and preparations made for provisioning the men who will be engaged in construction work. The completion of this spur will provide railway transportation for zinc ore from the Lucky Jim mine, near Bear Lake, on the Ainsworth-Slocan divide. It will also make practicable the shipment of much silver-lead ore from the Rambler-Cariboo, in McGuigan Basin, in which mine developments continue to be most promising, for ore has lately been found on the 1,200-foot level, which will give another face for ore extraction to add to those already opened on the 1,050-foot and other levels up to the 700. About Cody, conditions seem to be improving, for the finding of another shoot of ore in the Reco has been reported, while development on the Noble Five group, Sunset, and Surprise, indicates that all three may be expected to be on the ore-shipping list again before the close of the ensuing summer. Near Sandon, the Ruth-Hope, Richmond-Eureka, and Slocan Star groups are all being worked, and further production is expected from them. In the vicinity of Three Forks, the McAllister has changed hands and the Idaho-Alamo is again under lease. Near New Denver, the Mollie Hughes is being taken over by a Spokane company, which is expected to work this mine on a larger scale than in the past, while the Sweetgrass is being developed with promise of its making a profitable output of ore. Several of the smaller mines in the mountains near New Denver are also having attention this season.

Four-mile Creek camp, or Silverton camp as it is also called, is now the most active in Slocan division, with three important mines and two concentrating mills in operation. At the Standard mine, development on Nos. 5 and 6 levels has been continued. The face of No. 5 is now in milling ore of good grade; cross-cutting both ways from the adit has shown the width of ore here to be about 85 feet. No. 6 has not yet been driven far enough to reach the downward extension of the big shoot of galena ore occurring in No. 5, and which is believed to continue to the lower level. Construction of the aerial tramway to the mill site near the lake shore, about 8,000 feet away, is in progress, as is also that of the ditch and flume to bring water from Four-mile Creek to the place where the new compressor plant is to be erected, and thence to the mill site. Cribbing and excavations for foundations of mill building and plant have been completed, and machinery and plant for tramway, compressor, and mill equipment are being received. The machinery of the new mill the Van-Roi Mining Company started operating on March 15 is running smoothly and results are satisfactory. During the month of April the tonnage of ore put through the mill was 3,273 dry tons, the shipping products obtained from which were, approximately, 190 tons of silver-lead and 230 tons of silver-zinc concentrates. The former is being shipped to the Consolidated Company's smelter at Trail, B.C., and the latter to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, U.S.A. The Van-Roi mine is looking well, with a large tonnage of ore blocked out ready for extraction, so that prospects are favourable for a long and continuous mill run under conditions that indicate profitable results to the company. The Silverton Mines, Limited, operating the Hewitt-Lorna Doone group, is also expecting to have an uninterrupted season of production. For several years the development of its mine has been steadily proceeded with, until now there is much ore ready for shipment. The higher grade ore, in which freely occur ruby silver and grey copper, the latter also containing much silver, is sorted out by hand and shipped crude to the smelter. The second-class ore is sent to the Wakefield mill, on Four-mile Creek, for concentration by ordinary water process. One unit of the Elmore Vacuum Process plant is being put in at this mill, to treat the zinc middlings and make a shipping product to contain 45 per cent. or more of zinc and 100 ounces of silver per ton.

In Slocan City division, the Enterprise and Eastmont, on Ten-mile Creek; and the Arlington, Ottawa, Meteor, Black Prince, and Hampton, all on or near Springer Creek, are being