

## BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINES.

### Successes Already Achieved—Aid of Transportation— Legitimate Financing of Propositions.

"Opportunities for successful mining operations in British Columbia are by no means lacking," said Mr. R. H. Hedley, manager of the Canadian Mine Operators', Limited, by way of introduction to an interesting paper read before the Vancouver Progress Club. "This province offers unlimited resources, that are simply awaiting the expenditure of capital, governed by judicious, expert advice."

"To understand better the status of the mining industry at the present time it may be well to review the condition of railway construction planned for the province. The Canadian Pacific Railway is building from Golden to Cranbrook, in the Windermere valley; extending the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway on Vancouver Island northward to Seymour Narrows, and also constructing a line from Kaslo to Three Forks. The Grand Trunk Pacific is opening up the Hazelton district, and has contracted with the firm of Foley, Welch & Stewart to construct a line known as the Pacific and Great Western from Fort George to Vancouver. The Canadian Northern Railway is connecting the Yellowhead Pass with Kamloops, and building a line through the interior of Vancouver Island from Victoria to Port Hardy. The Kettle River Valley line is to be constructed over the Hope summit to the Canadian Pacific Railway and in the Ground Hog Basin a district rich in coal deposits; the Grand Trunk Pacific is building to Hazelton; the Canadian Northern Railway is building to Stewart, and a private company is tapping the Naas River district. A line is to be constructed from Fort George to the coast via Bute Inlet, and a line, financed by French capital, is under survey from Peace River to Bella Coola.

#### Water Powers Available.

"This increased transportation in connection with the excellent water powers available in the province makes the outlook for the mining industry very bright, indeed. Water power secured at Bonnington, at Coquitlam Dam, at Stave Lake, and on the Jordan River, on Vancouver Island, will offer every opportunity for the securing of cheap power for mining purposes."

"In view of the many reported failures in the province, due almost without exception to lack of experience and a knowledge of mining methods, let me cite a few of the many successes achieved. At Marble Bay, on Texada Island, the Britannia mines, the Granby properties at Hidden Creek, in the Cariboo and Quesnel districts, and at Trail, Grand Forks and Greenwood, at the Rambler-Cariboo and Hedley Gold Mines, Limited, properties the results already obtained give concrete proof of the great wealth contained in this province."

"Of the opportunities existing, coal is found in great quantities on Graham Island, north of Ground Hog Basin, at Copper River, Babine Lake, and in the country between Peace River and Bella Coola."

#### Methods of Unscrupulous Promoters.

"Iron, of which immense deposits exist in this province, is being worked on Texada Island, where the ores may be placed on board ship at 70 cents a ton, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and in the Queen Charlotte group, where assays have shown both high qualities and excellent quality. With the growing demand for agricultural steel, there is no reason why there should not be a plant in Vancouver for the making of pig-iron. Texada ores have been successfully handled at Irondale, Wash., and an excellent grade of pig-iron obtained. There is not a reason to doubt that with a good grade of metallurgical coke at a price not in excess of \$5 a ton, British Columbia cannot supplant the trade in Chinese pig-iron by the development of the local supply."

#### Copper, Lead and Platinum.

The speaker dealt with deposits of copper, lead-silver, gold, and platinum in the province, and arraigned the methods adopted by unscrupulous promoters, who were impairing British Columbia's reputation on foreign money markets, and placing mining in this province in the category of wild speculation and uncertain gambling ventures. He asked how companies could expect to uphold the reputation of the province when they attempted to pay 20 per cent. on an investment of 100 cents when only 3 cents of every 100 cents was being used for development work. He hoped that the time was not far distant when the laws of the province would preclude the possibility of so deluding the public.

The plant of the Ingersoll Waterworks Company, Ontario, will pass into municipal control on May 1, the price to be paid by the corporation being \$125,000.

## EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

### How Legislation is Being Shaped in the Neighboring Republic—Eleven States Will Have Laws.

By the first of July in eleven states Workingmen's Compensation Acts, or Employers' Liability laws, as they are variously called, will be in operation in this country. In as many more states similar laws are in the course of preparation to be presented for passage at the next session of the legislatures. The states having such laws now upon their books are as follows: California, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Not all of these laws are wise, says "Business," not all are just in their provisions. But the fact remains that law makers and the public alike have determined upon a new policy in the treatment of individuals who meet with accident in the course of their work, and the question naturally arises, what will it cost the employers?

#### Will Benefit Working Force.

That the new laws will operate to the benefit of the working force is unquestioned. That some reform in our methods of handling the cases of injured employees has been needed is likewise unquestioned. Whether the laws that have been adopted provide such a method remains to be seen, although it is already apparent that in their fundamental provisions they cannot work great harm to any individual or class.

Universally, the new laws take the matter of compensation to the injured workmen out of the courts where it was formerly adjusted, clumsily and unsatisfactorily, and place the burden definitely upon the shoulders of the employer. They name a fixed price for loss of life or injury occurring to the worker in the performance of his duties, which must be met by the employer, practically regardless of the circumstances. The amount of this compensation ranges from a minimum of \$3,000 in New Hampshire to a maximum of \$5,000 in California, in the case of death; in the case of total disability, from 50 per cent. of weekly earnings, with a limit of \$3,000 in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, to 66 2-3 per cent. of weekly wages, continuing until death if injury is permanent, in Ohio; in cases of partial disability, from 25 per cent. of wage loss in Kansas to 66 2-3 per cent., with a limit of \$3,400, in Ohio.

#### Drastic in Washington and Wisconsin.

Both Washington and Wisconsin have certain provisions in their laws which are more drastic than the above, since the former provides, in the case of death, for monthly payments to survivors, during dependency or childhood, with a lump sum to the widow upon re-marriage; and the Wisconsin law, which allows 65 per cent. of weekly earnings in cases of total disability, adds that after the first ninety days the compensation shall be increased to 100 per cent. of earnings, with a maximum payment of \$3,000.

Under the statutes of these states the employer has no recourse to the courts for the adjustment of the rates of compensation. He foots the bill for the crimes of industry in his own establishment. At the same time, however, he is relieved of the risk of excessive damages which have been commonly awarded where a case could be made out against the employer, and he avoids the heavy costs of litigation.

#### State Saved Cost of Law Suits

Incidentally, the state is saved the expense of these lawsuits and the courts are relieved of much delay as the result of legal tangles. This is no small item. The Wainwright Commission which framed the compensation law for New York, later declared to be unconstitutional, brought out the fact that one-fifth of the time of our courts is taken up with damage suits, most of them growing out of industrial accidents. These cases are done away with under the new compensation laws. They provide a certain relief and in the payment of it there is no money wasted in law suits.

The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Limited, of Norwich, England, has been licensed by the Department of Insurance, Ottawa, to transact in Canada the business of accident insurance, sickness insurance, and plate glass insurance, in addition to the business of fire insurance, for which it is already licensed.

"Every skyscraper in the city is a fire-trap, and that some day there will come a fire disaster that will awe the people of the country. The amount of wood used in our skyscrapers is appalling. Our high buildings are put together like a stove, with the elevator shafts for flues." Mr. E. Flagg, president, Society of Architects, at New York.