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THE MINING OUTLOOK.

SEVEN months of the present year have passed, but it can hardly be said that the period has been marked by any very notable progress of or developments in the mining industry of the Province. In Boundary District the rate of output has hardly exceeded the average maintained last year; Rossland, however, has done somewhat better; but for the operation of the Tyee mine, the Coast's showing would have been most unsatisfactory; production from the Slocan has fallen to about the level of the 1895 yield; metalliferous mining in East Kootenay has practically ceased; the season in Barkerville has been a dry one; in Atlin floods have caused much damage; and last but not least, coal mining activity has been seriously restricted by disastrous strikes both at the East Kootenay and Vancouver Island collieries. But British Columbians are nothing if not hopeful, and it really seems that with the coming of summer sunshine the clouds that have overhung the industrial horizon should be suddenly dispersed, and that there is again foundation for the belief that the dawning of more prosperous times has already awakened. It has not been the fault of the Boundary, for example, that

the showing of the district has not, during the past few months, realized expectations. On the contrary, development has proceeded so far that it would now be no difficult matter for production at twice the present rate to be maintained, provided an adequate supply of fuel for the smelters could be depended upon. In an interview Mr. Tonkin, manager of the Crow's Nest Collieries, stated very definitely the other day, that any cause the local smelters may have had in the past for complaint in respect to the deficiency in the fuel supply, this would henceforward be removed; that the company had now made ample provision to supply the local market with coke; that the output from the collieries was being steadily increased and that since the settlement of the strike in February last amicable relations between the company and the men had been established, and all danger of further labour troubles or complications—at least during the life of the agreement entered into at that time—was entirely remote. Already coke is being delivered much more freely in the Boundary, with the result that all four furnaces at the Granby smelter are for the first time this year in commission, and a second furnace has been blown-in at the Boundary Falls works. The Granby Company meanwhile is installing two additional furnaces, and a third is to be added at Boundary Falls, while several hitherto unproductive mines are about to commence the shipment of ore. Altogether, therefore, it may be fairly assumed that prospects in this section are brighter than they have been for some time past and the effect of generally improved conditions should be shortly apparent.

Rossland has, as has been already suggested, made this year a relatively more favourable showing than any other of the mining districts; but this has been due almost entirely to the satisfactory performance of four large mines. Apart from the fact that but recently operations have been resumed at a number of the lesser developed properties, and that several other mines have entered the productive class, the most sanguine anticipations for the future are entertained concerning the potentialities of the economic treatment of the low-grade ores of the district by the employment of suitable concentration methods. It is expected that the new Elmore plant now being installed at the Le Roi No. 2 will be in commission