

to one carload. This amount is being shipped and smelted under the pooling agreement with the Trail smelter.

Eight tons of ore, which it is estimated will run 300 ounces in silver to the tone, are being shipped from the Aspen mine, near Salmo, to Trail smelter. The owners of the property are Mrs. Billings and Percy F. Horton.

For several years considerable development work has been done at the Aspen group, and a large amount of ore is stated to be blocked out.

Operations has been in progress all winter, but recently a snowslide created havoc at the mine. It wiped out the blacksmith shop and ore bins, carrying away 125 sacks of ore.

At a special meeting of the Slocan district board of trade, held at Silverton on February 14, a special committee was appointed to investigate the present unsatisfactory mining conditions, and to suggest a remedy for the same. As a result of the committee's deliberations, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the board, at a special meeting held at New Denver:

"Whereas, the silver-lead-zinc mining industry of Canada has for years been in a most unsettled and unstable condition, and, notwithstanding the high market prices prevailing during this war period, for the smelted products of these ores, successful development of the mines is gradually becoming so hampered as to now threaten disaster to the industry, and ruin to these mining interests that are not also engaged in the smelting business;

"And whereas, such deplorable conditions of the industry is apparently mainly directly due to the absolute dependence of the mines upon the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, at Trail, for purchase and treatment of their ore, at the Trail smelter; such statement of fact being evidenced:

"1. By the monopoly said smelter enjoys in the reduction of these ores, owing to the practically prohibitive import duty maintained by the United States on such ore; there eliminating any chance of a competitive market.

"2. Said smelting company has by arbitrary and constant rearranging of its basis of settlement and smelting rates for such ores, made in intermittent and curtailed purchase of the same, while at the same time it imports a large tonnage of silver-lead ore from the United States—tended

to discourage the further investment of capital needed in the development of the industry, and to demoralize the same to such an extent that profitable mining cannot be carried on except by the said smelting company.

"And whereas, in view of the admittedly known critical mining situation now existing, and of the financial assistance which has been granted by the Dominion Government to the said smelting company, toward the construction of its smelting plant, thereby helping to establish a monopoly in the business—it is apparent that government regulation of the same has now become a necessity.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Slocan District Board of Trade, representing the mining and other dependent industries of the Slocan district, urgently petition the Dominion Government to either appoint a special commission, composed of competent metallurgists and mine operators, or extend the powers of the Board of Railway Commissioners with full authority and instructions to employ competent metallurgical experts, for the purpose of determining by investigations at the Trail smelter the present cost of smelting and the percentage of recovery of the various metals, etc., and to arrange just and equitable rates to be based upon the results of such investigations; said commissioners to have full power to investigate the books of said smelting company, subpoena witnesses, and make any other regulations they may find necessary in the prosecution and completion of such investigations.

"Be it further resolved, that we believe such an investigation will be the means of relieving the said industry of the uncertainty that now exists, and that both the mining and smelting interests will cordially welcome an investigation that would deal fairly with all concerned.

"And be it further resolved that this Board of Trade endorses the resolution adopted by the Kaslo Board of Trade on January 24, wherein the Dominion Government is petitioned to arrange with the Government of the United States for the free entry of lead and zinc ores from Canada to the States, and, in the event of failure to so arrange then to impose an import duty on such ores entering Canada from the States on like classes of ore from Canada—and we would urge speedy action by the government along these lines, as such an arrangement would undoubtedly in the meantime furnish a measure of relief."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1916

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$74,620,103; Lode Gold, \$91,350,784; Silver, \$41,358,012; Lead, \$36,415,124; Copper, \$114,559,364; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$7,212,759; Coal and Coke, \$165,829,315; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$26,697,835; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1916 show an

Aggregate Value of \$558,560,715

Production for Year Ending December, 1916, \$42,290,462

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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VICTORIA, British Columbia.