

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## The Mineral Province of Western Canada

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$75,116,103; Lode Gold, \$93,717,974; Silver, \$43,623,761; Lead, \$39,366,144; Copper, \$130,597,620; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$10,933,466; Coal and Coke, \$174,313,658; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$27,902,381; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1917 show an

### Aggregate Value of \$595,571,107

The substantial progress of the Mining Industry of this Province is strikingly exhibited in the following figures, which show the value of production for successive five-year periods: For all years to 1895, inclusive, \$94,547,241; for five years, 1896-1900, \$57,605,967; for five years, 1901-1905, \$96,509,968; for five years, 1906-1910, \$125,534,474; for five years, 1911-1915, \$142,072,603; for the year 1916, \$42,290,462; for the year 1917, \$37,010,392.

### Production During last ten years, \$296,044,925

Lode-mining has only been in progress for about twenty years, and not 20 per cent. of the Province has been even prospected; 300,000 square miles of unexplored mineral bearing land are open for prospecting.

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.

Full information, together with Mining Reports and Maps, may be obtained gratis by addressing

**THE HON. THE MINISTER OF MINES**  
**VICTORIA, British Columbia**

#### Complete Tie-up in Crowsnest Section.

With reference to the strike of coal miners in District 18, U.M.W. of A. (Eastern B. C. and the Province of Alberta), the situation has developed since my last letter into a complete tie-up in the Crowsnest Pass Section. The mines are being kept clear of water only by the efforts of the superintendent and a few officials. The City of Fernie, which is dependent on the colliery power plant for its light, is in darkness. The output of coal, of course, has ceased, and the production of coke, as a consequence, also has stopped. The latter is likely to have a very serious effect industrially if it continues. The Trail smelter is very largely dependent on the Crowsnest for its coke. Recently a considerable body of men was discharged from the Rossland mines, which are operated by the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, and Mr. J. J. Warren, the company's manager, made the statement that the resumption of operations might depend on the action of the coal miners, as without coke the ore of Rossland could not be treated.

In Alberta the position is much the same generally speaking. From Lethbridge comes the report that the mine workers as a body are practically without funds. Before the strike there was about \$10,000 in the union's treasury. Therefore, if the strike is continued, the suffering in labor's ranks will be severe. The Lethbridge City Mine is being operated because the Great War Veterans who are helping to man the mine insist that public utilities be maintained. Lethbridge City Power House, therefore, is supplied with fuel.

From Drumheller, Alberta, word is received that, although the strike of coal miners is general in the

valley, the Rosedale mine, which is operated by Mr. Frank Moodie, has resumed work with a full crew of men. It is stated there that, while foreign workers are fairly well supplied with savings to continue the strike, the English speaking miners, who spend more money, will shortly be without resources. The strikers are still trying to persuade the engineers to join them so that the mines may be flooded and made inoperative for three or four months. The latter, however, evince a determination to work.

#### FIRE BOSSES ON DUTY AT FERNIE.

In Fernie District the fire bosses, on a strike vote being taken, decided to remain on duty as in the past to carry out inspection duties and guard against irrecoverable damage within the mines. They state the mine management requested them to do work which, in their opinion, carried them outside their duties, and they refused, whereupon their resignations were demanded. With two reported exceptions not a wheel is being turned at Coal Creek. The exceptions are the pumps in B. North Mine, which mine would become inundated within a period of 48 hours if they were suspended, and the fans in B. North and No. 3 Mines, their gaseous nature of these collieries making it imperative to continue the operation of the ventilating systems. Caring for and feeding of the mine horses and other absolutely necessary work is being carried on by the pit bosses, and clerical and official help still on duty. As near as can be estimated there are between 700 and 800 employees directly affected at Coal Creek; at Michel about 500, and at Corbin less than 100.