

GRANBY PLANTS AT PHOENIX AND GRAND FORKS CLOSED DOWN.

From a mining standpoint, what is known as the Boundary District of British Columbia has suffered a blow in the recent closing down of the Phoenix Mines of the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co., with the consequent discontinuance of operation of the Grand Forks B.C. smelter. The absence of this industry, apart from the general indirect effect, means a serious loss to the West Kootenay Power & Light Co., which for years has supplied power for this plant, and to the small mine operators accustomed to make shipments of ore to the smelter for treatment, besides throwing many employees out of work. The explanation given by the company is that it is no longer profitable to handle the low-grade ore of the Phoenix mines, because of increased costs, among those things, instances being the increase in the cost of hydro-electric power, increased price of coke and increased railway freight rates.

These mines, it is pointed out, have been operated for some time on an exceedingly narrow margin, it taking 22½ cents per pound to produce a pound of copper from the ores because of the high costs. With the old U.S. Government price of 23½ cents per pound, there was a margin of profit of one cent. The subsequent increase to 26 cents per pound did not make the difference that might have been looked for, owing to the almost simultaneous rise in freight charges, etc.

The operation of the Phoenix Mines began in 1901, when, under the management of the Granby Company, they produced 169,087 tons. In that year the first smelting furnace of 300 tons capacity was completed and produced 8,871 ounces of gold, 34,990 ounces of silver and 5,435,955 pounds of copper. Additions to the smelter were made from time to time until its daily capacity attained 4,500 tons a day. The converter plant was established at Grand Forks in 1902, and its capacity increased in 1909.

The Phoenix Mines have produced up to the end of the last financial year, according to conservative estimates, ore to the value, approximately, of \$55,550,000, or nearly 10 per cent. of the total mineral production of British Columbia up to June 30th, 1917.

Hope has not been abandoned of persuading the Granby company to continue its operations in this district and, in this connection, Mr. J. E. Thompson, member of the local Legislature for Grand Forks, states that the company's plans must not be accepted as contemplating the abandonment of the camp, even temporarily. He asserts that it is most probable that, after affecting some repairs to plant, the industry will be re-established.

The main operations of the Granby company are on the coast. The Hidden Creek mine being a very large producer. The company's smelter at Anyox is making a large output.

NEW ISSUES.

The Department of Finance is circulating a memorandum respecting the regulation of issues of securities and shares under the order in Council of December 22, 1917. It is again pointed out that the provisions of the order apply to the issue of securities and shares under all circumstances, whether offerings are to be made to the public or not, and that no issue can legally be made until the consent of the Minister of Finance has been obtained. Details are to be furnished both as to how the proceeds of the issue will be used and as to how it is proposed to dispose of the securities or shares.

NIPISSING.

In his report to the President and directors of the Nipissing Mining Company Manager Hugh Park says that during the month of August the company mined ore of an estimated value of \$250,737 and shipped products from Nipissing and customs ore of an estimated net value of \$484,978.

"Underground work," says Mr. Park, "continued as heretofore, and some small veins were encountered at 73 shaft and at 96 tunnel. They are sufficiently encouraging to warrant further development. Development on all the 'town' veins was somewhat hampered during the month on account of the aerial tramway line connecting 73 shaft with the low-grade mill being partly destroyed. Several stores situated underneath the tram line were consumed by fire. The line was out of commission for ten days. During that time it was impossible to hoist any ore from 73 shaft, and it was necessary to provide the low-grade mill with tonnage from the township side of the lake. Most of that tonnage was low-grade material. Consequently, the production from both the washing plant and the low-grade mill for the month was decreased. The high-grade mill treated 98 tons and shipped 462,965 fine ounces of silver. The low-grade mill treated 6,890 tons."

KERR LAKE.

During the month of August the Kerr Lake Mining Company produced upwards of one-quarter of a million ounces of silver. This compares with 231,000 ounces in July. With the exception of the month of May, the August record was the highest in the Kerr Lake's history. The company's fiscal year ended August 31st, with a total output for the year of upwards of 2,575,000 ounces.

SHIPPING COPPER ORE FROM TIDEWATER

An extensive programme of development is being carried out on the property of the Tidewater Copper Company, Sidney Inlet, Vancouver Island, according to Mr. W. G. Tanner, vice-president of the company, who has returned from the mines. At present, the old workings are being opened up, and to facilitate shipments a tunnel is being driven through the mountain, while a small railroad is under construction connecting with the bunkers and the wharf. Mr. Tanner reports that a shipment, valued at \$20,000, was made recently to the Tacoma Smeltery.

The Tidewater is an old and well-known British Columbia mining property, having been operated first by the late Lieut.-Governor Dwedney and associates. They shipped some 10,000 tons of 4 per cent. copper ore and development carried to the point of uncovering a considerable body of good ore. At that time, however, the price of copper was not high enough to make the property profitable, and it was closed down. Since the outbreak of the war and the consequent increased demand for copper, together with the advance in prices, it again, in common with other mines of similar condition in this province and elsewhere, attracted attention and finally was taken over by its present operators.

The demonstration float arranged by the Hull Iron & Foundries, Ltd., for the Labor Day parade, which showed men actually engaged in pattern-making, moulding, core making and pouring metal, won the cup awarded for the best exhibit in the Ottawa-Hull parade.