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The result of the season's salmon pack, when 1,393,000 cases were packed, is a source of gratification to the salmon canner and business interests generally. The value of the pack to the province is variously estimated at between \$13,000,000 and \$15,000,000, and with only two exceptions, that of the two previous years, has never been exceeded in the history of the province. One favorable feature of the year's experience is the increase in sockeye salmon, which this year amounted to 369,445 cases as against 276,459 cases last year. The great bulk of this increase is due to the catch in the northern districts, as the Fraser River continues to show signs of depletion which were so evident in the big year of 1917 and last year. The industry has undoubtedly had a successful and prosperous year with all those engaged benefiting in the large pack and the high prices obtaining.

The market for the pack has somewhat been interfered with because of the exchange rate in Great Britain and to a smaller extent in France, while the United States market is not able to absorb the pack, notwithstanding the attractiveness of the exchange rate in favor of the Canadian exporter. However, the demand for fish food and the British Columbia salmon varieties are so large that little difficulty, it is anticipated, will be experienced in the satisfactory clean up of the season's pack.

One cannot help being imbued with the outlook for mining in British Columbia. The bringing in of new territory to the economic development of mines and the remarkable showing of new ores that have been uncovered during the past year presage a wide campaign of development and exploitation in the future. While this is highly desirable, can we not at this time seek to reduce the accompanying evils that associate themselves with mining development and the opening up of new properties? A few sincere efforts for the investigation of the possibilities of a commercial oil field in the Fraser Valley is taken advantage of by many concerns for the sale of shares in oil projects which are very questionable and can result in profit only to those selling or dealing in these shares. The Fraser Valley possibilities have not been wide enough for the activities of these concerns and they have brought into the scope of their operations the oil territory of the United States. While it is always a question of "let the buyer beware" we think that, in the interests of development of sound mining in the province that the objectionable and questionable promotion of companies having in view only the mining of the public, some steps should be taken to prevent or mitigate its prac-

The services of this journal are offered through an inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be reliable and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

tice. The imposition at the next session of the Legislature of some "blue sky" legislation, so framed that in its restrictions it will prevent advantage being taken of any flurries in mining development that inflame the public imagination. There is room for legitimate development and exploitation in the province without the activities of those who are engaged in the capitalization of "blue sky" with the proceeds all going to the promoter and the stock seller.

While the adverse European exchange rate may not have been due to labor troubles, there can be little doubt that the severe labor disputes have seriously interfered with the reestablishment of European industry which would help by increased production to mitigate the serious evils of the present exchange situation. Just when Europe had empty shelves the radical elements in labor circles succeeded in assuming so important a place in labor councils that prevented the filling of these shelves with all the attendant benefits that would therein be derived. While undoubtedly progress is being made in Europe along the lines of increased production, they are done in spite of the demands of labor rather than through the aid which labor could give in correcting the present weak position and effect a rapid readjustment.

The interests of labor did not seem to be operated for their own benefit and in consequence they will ultimately suffer for their folly in retarding this recuperation. The gradual elimination of the revolutionist in the councils of labor is being accomplished by the failures of the strikes which this element have succeeded in calling and the failure of labor to secure the demands of their false leaders is one of the hopeful aspects of future recovery.

In the meantime the success of the revolutionist since the signing of the armistice has had an incalculably bad effect on industry, from which it will suffer for a long time to come and in which the laboring man with all consumers and tax-payers will have to stand and share the loss.

While no definite announcements have been made for harbor improvements by the Minister of Marine and the Harbor Board, the City is to be congratulated on the announcement that the improvements will take place only on Burrard Inlet, thus saving for a number of years to come the Kitsalino and English Bay beaches for the pleasure of the people of Vancouver. With the land-locked harbor of Burrard Inlet capable of unlimited expansion in shipping facilities and accommodation, there is little reason for denying the citizens the health-giving privileges afforded by these two magnificent beaches.