MINISTER OF MINES REPORT--1904

A Volume of Special Interest and Value—An Epitome of Its Most Important Information.

(Continued from Last Sunday.)

on Spruce Creek. In both these cases the character of the ground and its gold contents have been thoroughly and satisfactorily tested by individual workers, although the top burden was so deep as to prevent any profit being made from this class of work, but the ground appears admirably suited for working by mechanical means.

"The greater part of the gold obtained from lode mining in British Columbia is found in connection with other metals and only separated or collected by smelting, probably not 5 per cent. of the product being obtained from stamp mills. The lode gold product for 1904 was $4,589,608, and was $223,008 less than in 1903, due to the diminished output of the Rossland and Nelson districts. In the former district the tonnage of ore mined is about 5 per cent. less and the gold contents about 8 per cent. less than last year. In the Nelson mining division there has been less ore mined, and the values per ton were, on the average, lower. In the Boundary district the tonnage of ore mined has increased about 30 per cent., and the gross gold contents is this year about 10 per cent. greater than it was the previous year. In the Coast district the tonnage of gold-bearing ore has been 20 per cent. less than the previous year, yet, for all that, the gold contents show an increase of about 8 per cent.

Silver and Lead.

"It has been customary in these reports to consider silver and lead together, since in this province about 80 per cent. of the silver produced is obtained from silver-lead ores, the remaining 20 per cent. being chiefly found associated with copper.

"The total silver production for the past year was 3,222,481 ounces, valued at $1,719,516. About 50 per cent. of this production came from the Slocan district, and about 25 per cent. from Fort Steele district, the two lead-producing centres, while the other 25 per cent. was produced in all the other parts of the province. This output is 226,277 ounces greater than was made in 1903—an increase of about 7 per cent.—and is chiefly attributable to the re-opening of the St. Eugene mine, in East Kootenay, the resumption of work in this mine being the direct result of the bounty on lead mined, offered by the Dominion government, without which assistance the St. Eugene cannot be profitably operated. In the Fort Steele mining division there were mined in 1903 less than 1,000 tons of ore, while in 1904 there were mined 76,895 tons, from which was recovered about two-thirds of the lead output of the province.

"The total lead output was 36,646,244 pounds of lead, of which 21,071,236 pounds was produced in East Kootenay, 10,611,227 pounds in Slocan, and 3,091,648 pounds in Ainsworth mining division.

Copper.

"There has been a further advance made in the production of copper, the output this year being 35,710,128 pounds, valued at $4,578,037, an increase of about 4 per cent. over the preceding year, which makes this output of copper the greatest ever made by the province. The product was obtained in the following districts:

District—	Pounds.
Boundary	22,066,407
Rossland	7,119,876
Coast	5,960,593
Yale-Kamloops	328,530
Nelson	220,500
Various districts	14,372
	35,710,128

"The average assays of the ores of the various camps, based upon copper recovered, were as follows: Boundary camp, 1.38 per cent. copper; Rossland, 1.12 per cent.; and Coast District 3.68 per cent.

Other Minerals.

"There has been no ore mined for iron-making this past year, as the only iron blast furnace on the NorthWest Coast, that on Puget Sound, has not been operated. Formerly, the lead smelters mined ore (magnetite) at Kamloops for fluxing purposes, but this has been discontinued, as ores have been found nearer home, which although not carrying so high a percentage of iron, contained small values in copper, gold or silver, which rendered them more desirable.

"Zinc ores having received a great deal of attention during this past year, more particularly those of the Slocan district, but, with the exception of the ore from the Ivanhoe mine, Sandon, it could not be learned that any important amount of ore had been sold before the close of the year. In the Slocan district zinc blende occurs with the galena ores, sometimes in considerable quantity, and usually associated with iron carbonates. Most of the concentrating mills have now been equipped so as to separate out a "zinc concentrate" from the jigs and tables. These concentrates will run from 38 to 48 per cent. zinc (as zinc blende), but will carry as impurities, considered from the standpoint of a zinc ore, from 2 to 5 per cent. of lead, as galena, from 5 to 15 per cent. of iron, as pyrite and carbonate, and from 20 to 45 ounces of silver to the ton, with the balance gangue matter, usually highly silicious.

"Most of the zinc smelting works which are prepared to buy zinc ores are now using the Belgian furnace, in which the ore is mixed with coal or other reducing agent, placed in a clay retort, the reduced zinc being distilled off and caught in a condenser. Iron and lead are highly objectionable in this process, inasmuch as they flux with and destroy the retorts, adding greatly to the cost of the process. For this reason crude Slocan concentrates have not found a ready market, and to remove these objectionable impurities two "zinc enrichment" plants are under construction, in addition to the Payne mine magnetic separator. It is believed that these impurities can be so removed, to such an extent at least as to render them non-injurious, but the question of the silver still remains to be solved, for, as far as could be observed, it is directly included in, and a part of, the zinc blende, and can not be separated, save by smelting or some other form of disintegration of that mineral.

"While this silver cannot be considered as detrimental to the ore as a zinc ore, it is very difficult to separate and save the silver, and but a partial recovery can be made at the best; consequently, the price offered by ore buyers seems very low for the silver contents. For this reason it has so far been found advisable by all the producers to throw as much zinc into the lead concentrates as the lead smelter will accept without a penalty in which case the producer gets no pay for his zinc, but gets a price for its silver contents which more than recoups him for his loss in zinc. These conditions apply to zinc smelting as it is usually carried on. There are, however, two or three newer processes not very widely known, which are especially adapted to such ores, but operators of these concerns are naturally only prepared to give enough for the ore to outbid the regular zinc smelter. An electric process is being developed in Vancouver which has considerable promise and which can be utilized in small units, and this may help to solve the problem by the local treatment of the concentrates.

"The ore from the Lucky Jim mine, of the Slocan, is a zinc ore, low in silver, with iron and lead as occasional impurities. About 2,000 tons of this ore were shipped to Kaslo about the end of 1904, but the sales had not been completed by the close of the year.

"There are zinc ore properties on Quatsino Sound and also near Vancouver, but so far no shipments have been made and little development has been done.

"The production of platinum has this year been confined to Granite creek, in the Similkameen, and this creek produced only 35 ounces, valued at $12 an ounce, recovered from the sluice-boxes in washing for placer gold. As far as can be ascertained, platinum has not as yet been found "in place" in British Columbia, although its occurrence is wide-spread in the gravel of the placer gold deposits throughout the province.

"In the report of 1902 the occurrence of platinum in considerable quantity was noted at several points on the Quesnel river, Cariboo district. These occurrences were the subject of a special investigation by a representative of an Eastern firm interested in the metals, but with what results has not been learned.

"Mr. Hobson, in his report of last year's operations of the Consolidated Cariboo company, an extract from which will be found on page 41 of this report, notes the occurrence of platinum, osmiridium, and also of palladium, in the heavy concentrates from his sluice -boxes, and he is preparing to put in a system of undercurrents to collect all of these heavy concentrates.

"In the Thibert creek hydraulic workings, platinum has previously been noted, but this company did no sluicing this past season. Mr. Hamfield, the manager, in his report, speaking of work planned for next season, says: 'Since definite measures are to be taken towards the saving of the smiridium which is known to exist in the deposit to an appreciable amount.'

"In a comparatively young country, with lumber as plentiful as it is in British Columbia, the use of stone for building purposes is relatively too expensive, except in the cities, where wooden buildings are prohibited within the fire limits. In the Interior there has been comparatively little stone construction going on, and the quarrying of stone for such purposes cannot be said to exist as an industry. When stone is required, a few men are put to work on one of the innumerable rock exposures simply to quarry out sufficient stone to meet immediate demands.

"On the Coast, the three largest cities of the province have created a market for building stone, and several quarries have been opened up on the islands of the Gulf of Georgia, which afford exceptionally easy opportunities for opening up quarries, as the rock faces open up right from deep water, permitting of the stones being loaded directly on to boats. Most of these quarries will be found described in a body of this report, under the heading "Stone Quarries of Coast." The stones quarried are granite, sandstone, and an andesite very much resembling sandstone in appearance. An export market for stone is being slowly but surely established in the American cities on Puget Sound and in California.

"Red bricks are manufactured in small yards all over the province, for local consumption, the distribution of brick clay being so general as not to necessitate any large brick-making centre, although very extensive yards are in operation near Vancouver and New Westminster. The manufacture of fire-brick has been carried on at Comox, by the Wellington Colliery Co., from fire-clay occurring in connection with the coal seams, and also at Victoria by the B. C. Pottery Co., from clay derived from the same source. This latter company has also entered extensively into the manufacture of drain and sewer pipe, tiles, etc., for which there appears to be a good local market.

"It was noted in last year's report that apparently a large deposit of shale carrying oil had been discovered in the Beaver Valley, near Harper's Camp, Cariboo. Further samples of this shale and a small flash of oil retorted from it were obtained through Mr. Carew-Gibson, of 150-Mile House. These the bureau sent to Dr. T. R. Marshall, of London, England, with the request that he turn them over for analysis and report to some chemist who had experience with the oil shales of Great Britain. Dr. Marshall handed these to Mr. Arthur King, whom he considered expert in this matter, who reported that the oil was of a very low value for commercial purposes. The specific gravity was .972, which denoted that the oil is very dense and only fit for lubricating purposes and scarcely worth refining. The shale was worthless for commercial purposes, and from a geological point of view only indicated that oil shales might exist. Further prosecution might result in discovery of oil and rich shale. Only careful geological examination in conjunction with actual prospecting could determine this.

"Within the past few months Mr. R. H. Alexander, of Kamloops, writing from Lytton, sent to the bureau for examination a sample of black shale, which proved to be oil-bearing and very similar to those of Harper's Camp. As was noted in last year's report, shales of a similar character were found in Calder Creek, a tributary of the Flathead. As far as can be learned, no actual development took place in the Flathead oil district during 1904.

General Developments.

"The year 1904 has been devoid of any sensational features in the way of new discoveries or remarkable development, but the year has brought increased output from the well-known mines rather than the opening up of new producing properties.

"In the Boundary district the tonnage of ore mined has increased 15 per cent., and this has called for increased equipment on the part of all the large companies owning their own smelting plants. These, realizing that the oxidized ores found in the upper portions of the original ore bodies were liable to be replaced at a greater depth by sulphides, have 'taken time by the forelock' and secured, by means of purchase and consolidation, all available deposits carrying oxidized iron in excess, securing thereby a supply of such ore for fluxing purposes.

"The average contents of the ore mined in the Boundary for the past year was 1.38 per cent. copper, $1.44 in gold, and 0.3 oz. in silver to the ton, based upon the statistics of the district. To mine and smelt in British Columbia an ore of this grade at a profit, it must be done on a very large scale and with the best appliances, and the ores must be self-fluxing, or nearly so. That a profit has been made argues that all these conditions have existed, and, further, that the plants have been most economically run.

"The company operating upon the largest scale in the district is the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Co. The control of this company recently passed into the hands of New York capitalists, and under the new directorate still further additions have been made to both the mine and smelter plants, while additional railway facilities have been acquired through an extension of the tracks of the Great Northern Railway Co.'s system. From the company's Old Ironsides and Knob Hill there were mined over 544,000 tons, while the company has been operating several other properties under bond and on shares, for the purpose of obtaining their fluxing or oxidized ores.

"The B. C. Copper Co. has made important improvements at the mine, and as most of the ore is now being quarried, the company will be able to even further reduce the cost of mining. The mine produced last year about 175,000 tons of ore, and this output should be materially increased next year. The company acquired a three-quarter interest in the Emma mine, which last year shipped 36,000 tons of ore carrying small values, and used as flux by this company and by the Nelson smelter, which owns the other quarter interest in the mine. The company's smelter treated during the year, including customs ore, etc., some 210,484 tons of ore, containing 36,403 ounces of gold, 118,419 ounces of silver, and 5,081,743 pounds of copper.

"The Montreal & Boston Company has been re-organized and consolidated with the Brooklyn-Stemwinder, Rawhide, Athelstan-Jackpot, Sunset and Morrison mines, thereby insuring a large and steady supply of ore, which it will be possible so to adjust as to make it attached to these experiments, as their success will materially affect the future of the Rossland camp.

"In the Slocan district the most important feature to be observed in connection with mining was the effect that the lead bounty would have in stimulating lead mining, and it must be admitted that, as far as increasing actual production is concerned, the results have not been so great as was anticipated. There has been an increased amount of development going on, which seems attributable to the 'bounty,' the effect of which will be felt later.

"The utilization of the zinc-blende recovered as a bye-product in the concentration of galena ores has had a great effect on the prosperity of many of the mines, and, as the cleaner separation of the zinc concentrates has been accomplished, a profitable market seems assured for the product in the future.

"Nothing requiring special note has occurred in the Nelson district this past year, unless it be the successful prospecting done on Summit creek, in the eastern part of the division—noted in the body of this report—and the opening up and equipping of the May and Jennie, a large, low-grade gold property in the western part of the division.

"The development in the Ymir mine has not been successful. The Silver King, operated under contract, did very well on a small scale, and will be worked next year jointly by the company and the contractor.

"The Hunter V., a new company, has been most successful and has cleared more than expenses this first year.

"In the East Kootenay district there are two or three companies installing plants to work, by mechanical means, placer ground in the immediate vicinity of ground formerly worked by individual miners. These enterprises have not as yet progressed far enough to have obtained definite results. In this district the effect of the 'lead bounty' has been most beneficial, and may be said to be directly responsible for the production of 21,000,000 pounds of lead and 600,000 ounces of silver, which could not have been produced without it, while the product for 1905 promises to be at least 50 per cent. greater.

"The coal mines are the important factors in the production of this district, and are described elsewhere in the report; their output has greatly increased, and chiefly through the export of the products. Prospecting has developed further coal fields in this section, farther up the Elk River than the present mines, the general situation being, as described by one of the prospectors—"There is coal to burn in East Kootenay."

"In the Windermere district mining has been very much at a standstill, as it is there firmly believed that the Kootenay Central Railway will soon be built, and as this would revolutionize present mining conditions, present work has been largely confined to development.

"In the Atlin district there has been a more than usually successful placer mining season. The work has been confined to the known field, chiefly in developing the 'old channel,' and installing plants to take the place of individual workings. The district is fully described by the provincial mineralogist in the body of this report.

"In the Liard division productive mining has been practically dormant, owing to the principal companies being fully occupied in enlarging their plants, a serious undertaking in a district so devoid of transportation facilities.

"In the Skeena division, as anticipated last year, the settlement of the Alaskan boundary has led to the active development of several high-grade gold properties, which have considerable promise. No market has, as yet, materialized for the sulphur ores of the mines on the Ecstall river, and these properties have lain idle.

"The coal fields of Queen Charlotte Islands have been the subject of serious negotiations this past season, but, as far as can be learned, no further development of the properties has taken place, and the drilling to prove the coal nearer the centre of the field has not yet begun.

"On Princess Royal Island the Princess Royal group shipped 300 tons of ore, running over $50 in gold to the ton, with a little silver and copper, and two other companies are actively developing, with a prospect of shipping in the near future.

"In the Telkwa valley the development of what promises to be important deposits of semi-anthracite coal has attracted much attention, while in the same section prospecting has disclosed mineral properties from which some exceptionally fine samples of copper ores have been brought out.

"As this district is supposed to be on the line of the approaching Grand Trunk Pacific railway, it will, this coming season, be pretty thoroughly investigated by prospectors and those in search of land.

"On Texada Island, in the Nanaimo district, the Marble Bay mine has been continuously worked, and has made a large output. The Van Anda mines have been under bond to an English syndicate, which has been seriously hunting for extensions of the old ore-bodies, but with indifferent success, as the syndicate is about to suspend operations and turn the properties over to the original company. The iron mines have not shipped or been worked this past year.

"In the New Westminster division, the copper properties on Howe Sound owned by the Britannia Copper Syndicate, have been equipped with a tramway and accessories and a most extensive concentrating plant, which is now approaching completion, should be ready to operate by the middle of the coming summer.

"On the West Coast of Vancouver Island there are no new developments to report. The copper properties at Yreka, on Quatsino Sound, have lain idle. In the same vicinity several new claims have been developed, but are not yet producing; among these is a zinc blende property. At Sidney Inlet the Prince group has lain idle. The Indian Chief group shipped a small quantity of ore, but later was also idle.

"In the Mount Sicker district, on Vancouver Island, the Tyee company has had a successful year as far as shipments is concerned, but has experienced a cave in the mine which retarded operations, and has not as yet been successful in the search for ore below the 300-foot level.

"The adjoining property, the Richard III., has been unable to find a further ore lens than the one first struck.

"The Lenora has been the subject of negotiations on the part of the receiver, which are not yet completed. No work has been done at the mine.

"A small copper property has been opened up a few miles from Ladysmith and is now shipping very fair ore. On some four or five properties development has been satisfactory, and it is probable some of them will ship this coming year.

"The Camp McKinney mines have stopped for an indefinite period, and at Fairview the Stemwinder mined and milled about 1,200 tons of $4 to $5 gold quartz.

"At Hedley City, in the Osoyoos division, the Nickel Plate mine having completed its system of tramways and mill, mined and treated about 10,000 tons of ore, yielding values of from $12 to $15 a ton, chiefly in gold. Other properties in the vicinity are being developed very successfully, and will undoubtedly ship as soon as a railway is built into the district.

"At Summit camp—near the summit of the Hope mountains—in the western part of the Similkameen division, development has been carried on on a number of claims, with results which have attracted much attention to the camp. This coming season will probably bring to two or three of these sufficient 'ore in sight' to justify some means of transportation being provided.

"In the Nicola district continued development is reported as having been carried on on the mineral properties of the Aspen Grove camp and in the other claims of the district.

"The coal fields near Nicola have, this past year, received a great deal of attention and prospecting, with the result that the field has been found to extend beyond the limits formerly supposed to bound it. As yet the development is superficial, but the quality of the coal is even better than was expected. The following analyses from the provincial government assay office, from samples brought in by Mr. Alex. Faulds—late manager for the Wellington Colliery Company—from one of the properties examined by him, gives an idea of the quality of the coal found:

	Moisture.	Ash.	Fixed Carbon.	Volatile matter.	Coking quality.
1—Upper bench in tunnel or coal gulch	4.5	9.3	55.5	30.7	Coke not firm
2—Middle bench in tunnel, 120 feet in	5.38	3.6	61.2	29.82	Firm coke
3—Bottom bench in tunnel seam in gulch	4.46	5.9	59.2	29.44	Firm coke
4—Upper bench from Rat Hole	2.06	7.7	63.9	25.41	Firm coke
5—From bench from Rat Hole, 50 feet in	2.85	12.28	61.08	23.81	Firm coke

Individual Placer Mining—Boulder Breek, Atlin.

Chicago Unions Fail to Agree

Strike Continues But Builders Withdraw Support From Struggle.

Management Taken Out of the Hands of President Shea.

Chicago, May 27.—The general executive board of the teamsters' union has taken the management of the strike out of the hands of President Shea, and it will be managed hereafter by the members of the executive board. After assuming control of the strike, the executive board issued a statement, which with a few unimportant omissions is as follows: "At the meeting of the general executive board of the international brotherhood of teamsters a general discussion of the present strike was held, and it was decided unanimously to continue the strike along the same lines, with frequent conferences between the general executive board and the local joint strike committee of the teamsters' council in Chicago.

"If at any time any change of policy is decided upon it will be at once announced. We believe the strike should be confined to Chicago and to as few men in Chicago as is possible.

"The general executive board is hopeful that peace will soon be established, but any peace must be on honorable terms so far as the strikers are concerned. However, there is no intention on the part of the executive board or the joint strike committee to be arbitrary.

Unions Are Quarrelling.

While numerous small riots occurred today, the leaders of the teamsters' strike and the officers of the building trades were engaged in quarrels of their own.

The action of the building trades last night in withdrawing from the teamsters their financial and moral support angered the teamsters and the representative building trades and demanded to know what they meant by "going back" on the teamsters in the thickest of the fight. It was made plain to the teamsters that in the opinion of the building trades the drivers had overstepped their jurisdiction in causing members of their union to do constructive work. The particular cause of the complaint was that teamsters employed in handling safes and vaults had placed the safes in buildings. This part of the work, the building trades contend, belongs to the builders.

Several new efforts were made during the day to settle the strike, but none of them amounted to anything.

It is admitted by the labor leaders that a critical stage in the strike is at hand.

The attention of the strikers and employers was centered largely today upon the effect of the action of the associated building trades, accounted the strongest labor body in Chicago and representing in its membership upwards of 18,000 union workmen. This body, having withdrawn both moral and financial support from the teamsters' cause, the first effect will be to cut off nearly $1,000 a week from the strikers' funds. The subsequent effect is problematical, many thinking it means the first break in the struggle, the beginning of the end. In any event it seems to check the peril to the building industry of the city, a situation which had become one of the great problems of the strike. Further, this withdrawal of the financial support is particularly trying at a time when finances are a serious problem. The response to the request for contributions from the country at large has, it is alleged, not been up to the expectations, and with a daily expense of $10,000, financial stringency may be the rock on which the strike will be wrecked.

AGRICULTURE.

Deputy Minister Reports on Crop Prospects—Cattle Show at Calgary.

Mr. J. R. Anderson, of the department of agriculture, has just returned from an extended tour through the upper country, including the Kootenay and the Boundary, where in company with Mr. James Murray, western superintendent of the seed division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, meetings were held under the auspices of the various Farmers' Institutes of the interior. According to Mr. Anderson, great interest in fruit growing is being everywhere manifested, and the deputy minister took occasion specially to emphasize the importance of starting aright and aiming at high ideals, illustrating his subject by quoting the experience of the Oregon growers, who last season obtained as high as 24 shillings a case for chosen apples on the London market, equal to $3.60 on the ground. He advised that home-grown trees be planted in preference to imported stock. The possibility of obtaining provincial nursery stock is increasing daily, said Mr. Anderson, many nurseries having been started in all parts of country. At Grand Forks Mr. Martin Burrell has a good nursery which will be capable of supplying the local demand in that vicinity shortly. The fruit grown both in West Kootenay and in the Boundary is of exceptionally good quality, the suitable areas in the former, although circumscribed in comparison to the extent of the district, being much greater than was originally believed; in the Boundary quite a large extent of land is available. A large irrigation witch was about completed which will provide water for most of the land adjacent. The necessity of irrigation in Kootenay is not so great, but water is available almost everywhere for the purpose. It was a source of gratification to the speakers that the greatest interest was manifested in the meetings.

Mr. Murray spoke on the importance of keeping the land clean by care in obtaining clean seed. It was shown that most of the infestation by weeds arose through carelessness in this respect, all the really bad weeds having been introduced. At one place Mr. Anderson reports having found the Russian thistle, a weed of the most noxious character and which has not been previously reported in this province.

Late frost had done considerable injury to the cherry crop in the Okanagan and in some instances to the strawberries. Water is very low in most of the streams and since there is but little snow in the mountains to augment the supply of water it is feared that there will be a great dearth of that most essential element in those parts where irrigation is necessary. At Vancouver a pest resembling the cigar case leaf roller was discovered, which Dr. Fletcher pronounces to be new to him. It occurs on hawthorns, which it disfigures greatly. Crops throughout the country as a rule promise well.

Calgary was subsequently visited, where a meeting with Mr. Hodson, the Dominion live stock commissioner, the Hon. John Dryden (late minister of agriculture of Ontario), and many other prominent men from the East and Manitoba, was held and several matters of importance to agricultural and live stock industries were arranged. The show of pure bred stock was exceedingly good; some 500 head of cattle, mostly bulls, were shown and subsequently sold at auction. The prizes realized, however, were disappointing, the cause being the large number of animals offered, the low price of beef, and the absence of many of the largest buyers of former years. Prices of Hereford bulls ranged from $45 to $175; Aberdeen Angus, $50 to $70; Shorthorns, $30 to $225, according to age and breeding. It is to be regretted that more of British Columbia's breeders were not present as great bargains in bulls were to be had.

A visit to the C. P. R. irrigation works was made under the guidance of Mr. Pearce, the engineer. The work is of a most stupendous character, and is calculated when completed to irrigate several hundred square miles of territory. Machinery of all descriptions, steam dredgers, locomotives, twelve-horse plows, which also load the waiting wagons, and numberless other appliances, are in use in the cuttings.

The weather throughout the journey was as a rule good and much needed rain fell in most parts of the dry belt for several days. A dust storm at Calgary, a snowstorm in the Selkirks, and snow on the line near Keefers were encountered.

GRANBY IMPROVEMENTS.

One Hundred Thousand Dollars for a New Shaft.

Phoenix, B. C., May 27.—(Special.)—The announcement was made today that $100,000 will be spent at once in sinking a new three-compartment shaft at the Granby mines. The shaft will be sunk on the Victoria plain, a raise being made from the 400-foot level to the surface. The headworks are to be equipped with a mammoth crusher capable of handling 1,500 tons every ten hours. The completion of this undertaking places the Granby mines in a position to output 4,000 to 5,000 tons per day. An additional furnace, bringing the capacity up to nine furnaces, is contemplated at the company's Grand Forks smelter.

LINEVITCH'S REPORT.

Commander Notes Usual Small Affairs of Outposts.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—A despatch from General Linevitch dated May 26, says: "The Japanese on May 24 assumed the offensive from Ehrdaman, in the west, towards Bankhegan. Our troops ambushed a company of Japanese, wounding over 30 of them."

Season Opens At Hazelton

An Interesting Budget of News From the Town on the Skeena River.

Bustle on Arrival of the First Steamer With Many Chechakos.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hazelton, B. C., May 10.—The season opened with the arrival of the H. B. Co.'s steamer Mount Royal on April 26, making a record both in earliness of season and number of passengers, sixty odd. This number taxed the accommodations of the boat to the utmost but under the efficient management of Capt. Johnson and his assistants all were provided for in a manner that left nothing to be desired.

The Telqua quartz mines was the attraction of the majority, among whom were Wm. Hunter, H. Howson and Wm. McCulloch, all having located valuable holdings last season. Mr. Harry Taylor Taylor of Salt Lake, a quartz expert went in from here with the Hunter party. Mr. T. E. Jefferson of Butte, representing Heinze interests, is on the ground, also R. W. Rodda of Seattle, who represents a Seattle ore syndicate.

A number of others were headed for the rich farming land of the Bulkley valley. Jos. and Victor Spencer of the Spencer company, owners of the townsite of Aldermere, and a large tract of grazing land adjoining, taking in a complete outfit, and have a drove of cattle and a number of horses coming in by the Telegraph trail from Quesnel.

Rt. Rev. Du Varnet, Bishop of Caledonia, held service in St. Peter's Episcopal church on the 28th, and in the evening confirmed a number of the Indian adherents of the mission.

Capt. John Irving of Victoria made a flying visit to town, spying out the land, rumor has it, in the interests of parties who intend putting a steamer on the Skeena in the near future.

Mr. Webster of Ottawa and Mr. Pool left a few days ago to examine the coal lands in the Telqua valley.

Mr. E. G. Russell of the Grand Trunk Pacific has also left for the interior.

The furniture and fittings of the Omineca hotel, C. Barrett & Co., came in on the first trip of the Mount Royal, and were installed the same day by the energetic manager, P. R. Fleming, who drew a full house on the first deal.

A meeting held in the Omineca hotel on the 9th inst., R. E. Loring in the chair, J. C. Boyce, secretary, elected E. E. Stevenson to represent the patrons of the hospital on the board of directors. The full board, consisting of Dr. Wrinch, the matron, Miss Bone, R. E. Loring, for the Indian department, and a member yet to be appointed by the provincial government.

The following evening a meeting was held in the same place, Rev. Mr. Field in the chair, J. C. Boyce secretary, to elect temporary school trustees in view of getting an assisted school for Hazelton. Messrs. Stevenson, R. S. Sargent and E. E. Charleson were chosen, and Secretary Stevenson will report immediately to the education department.

The "chechaco" is struck on visiting the local stores by the large and complete assortment of staple goods carried, and still more so on learning the prices quoted by R. S. Sargent & Co., Cunningham & Son, and the Hudson's Bay Co., where purchases are taken in hand directly by the packers, doing away with the troubles and costs of shipping and transferring that attend outfits from the Coast cities.

Packers' rates to the Bulkley valley at present are 3c per lb. The trail is in wretched condition, and now is an excellent time for the government to get it in a condition for the heavy traffic it will have to bear this summer.

WEST COAST MINES.

Renewal of Activity on Copper Properties—Quatsino Iron Deposits.

Mining at Alberni and other points on the West Coast is active, and there is a good prospect that one or two copper properties will become shippers in the near future. This is certain to be the case at the Gladys group of mines on the southeast side of the Alberni canal, opposite the Monitor mine. This property is being operated by Messrs. Clarke and Lea of this city, on behalf of American capital. The mine is well situated for shipping purposes, the face of the tunnel now being run being but four hundred feet from the water, to which point the ore will be sent by a gravity tramway. Advices received from the mine foreman, Andy Forrest, by the Queen City yesterday, state that there is already fifty tons of first-class ore on the dump, although the camp was only established at the mines on the 9th of the present month. This would represent but a short period of actual work on the ore, and it will be possible to ship 250 tons of ore in the course of six weeks time. The ledge on the claim now being worked is nearly twenty feet in width, and has been uncovered continuously up the hill for 750 feet. The first-class ore averages high in copper value, with some gold and silver, and will return at least $15 per ton net profit after paying all charges. Six miners are now at work on the Gladys, which staff will be increased as soon as it is possible to work them. Mr. N. S. Clarke will go down on the Queen City on the 1st of June for the purpose of arranging for the building of a tramway and bunkers.

Work on the new tunnel at the Happy John mines, which adjoin the Monitor on the northwest side, is also progressing well, the tunnel being all in ore. It is expected that this tunnel will develop a very large body of ore.

At the Southern Cross, on Uchucklesit harbor, a gang of miners is engaged in opening up this property, which is owned by J. D. Conway, of Ladysmith, and several others.

On Deer creek, Clayoquot, Messrs. Thompson and Ward are opening up the Hattie Green copper claim, the ore from which is of a very high grade. It is expected that a trial shipment will shortly be made from this property.

Mr. W. Price, of Seattle, is now on Quatsino sound opening up the hematite iron claims recently purchased by Messrs. Piddock and Moore, of Seattle. It is said that an iron plant will in the near future be established at some point on the sound by these parties, probably on Rupert arm.

It is reported that operations will shortly begin on the June group of copper claims, situated about six miles from the southeast arm of Quatsino sound, opposite the Yreka copper mines. An extensive body of ore has been uncovered on this group.

CUT IN INSURANCE.

Material Reduction Made by Terminal City Board.

Vancouver, May 27.—(Special.)—A big reduction in fire insurance rates took place today, amounting to 25 per cent. on brick blocks and 15 per cent. on wooden buildings. The reduction applies to business buildings only, but it is said that the rate will soon be reduced on dwellings. Agents were notified today that insurance hereafter could be written at the reduced rate. The hands of the board of underwriters, it is said, were forced owing to outside companies doing business under the rates of the line companies.