

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MORE LEAD, ZINC AND COPPER NEEDED FOR SHELLS.

As the Kootenay and Boundary Districts of British Columbia are centres for the production of lead, zinc and copper it is expected that mining activity in these sections will be considerably accelerated as a result of the orders received in Canada from the British Government for a large increase in shrapnel production. It is anticipated that the Trail Smeltery of the Canadian Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company will be worked to capacity, and that the operators of the silver-lead-zinc properties of lower British Columbia, will be kept busy in order to do their part in bringing the output up to 220,000 shells a week, which is what the British War Office has requested.

RAMBLER-CARIBOO MINES.

The annual report of the Rambler-Cariboo Mines, Ltd., Slocan, B.C., covering receipts and disbursements from May 1, 1917, to April 30, 1918, has been issued. It shows receipts from shipments of \$78,767, derived from lead ore worth \$63,732 and zinc ore worth \$4,226. Surplus brought forward from last year was \$21,849, making total receipts of \$100,634, including \$17.25 for transfer fees. Disbursements at the mine reached \$62,343 and one dividend of a cent a share, or \$17,500 was paid, making total disbursements, less special discount, of \$42,798, and leaving cash balance of \$20,833 in New Denver, Spokane, and Colfax banks. Ore in transit is worth \$20,000, so that the total liquid resources at time report was issued were approximately \$40,000. For damage done to tramway and buildings by snowslide during the winter \$6,580 was written off as well as \$5,991 for depreciation of buildings and plant. Two of the most pertinent paragraphs of the directors' report read as follows:

"In the past most of our net profits came from the shipment of clean ore, but during the past year we unfortunately encountered but small amounts of clean shipping ore and the operation of the mill on concentrating ore has but little more than paid expenses.

"We will be prospecting during the coming year on what we think is promising ground, and hope to pick up some good, clean bodies. In that event the earning power of the company would improve rapidly."

DEVELOPING MOLLY GIBSON GOLD-SILVER MINE.

Considerable development work is being done on the Molly Gibson gold-silver property in the Nelson, B.C., Mining Division. A tunnel is being driven about 160 feet below the upper workings, to get in below the orebody and allow the rock to be stoped down and taken out by gravity, thus reducing considerably the cost of operation. Those interested believe that it is destined to prove one of the big gold producing mines of British Columbia. It is claimed that a shipment to the Trail smelter yielded \$22.76 per ton in gold and silver. The Provincial Mineralogists' Report for 1917 refers to the Molly Gibson Mine, which is situated 32 miles from the Granby smeltery and 56 miles from Trail, as follows: "This mine was closed till the end of June. Work was started in July at the mine, and at the mill in August. All the development work was for enlargement of stopes. Some 367 tons of crude ore was shipped to Trail smelter. The mill put through

1,759 tons of feed and produced 134 tons concentrates, which was not shipped. A new flotation process was installed and a Hardinge ball-mill is now on its road to the mill. The average number of men employed was fifty."

There will be eight parties of the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department, Ottawa, in the field in British Columbia this summer. Several of these are at work already and the others will be equipped as soon as possible. As there are only about 25 such parties at work throughout Canada this year the comparatively large proportion assigned to this Province is taken as an indication that the Federal authorities are recognizing to a greater extent than ever the importance of the most westerly of the Canadian Provinces from a mining standpoint. This view is emphasized by the fact that a permanent Geological Station, under Mr. Charles Camsell, of the Geological Survey Branch, has been established in British Columbia.

Ore Testing Mill for B.C.

Reference has been made in these notes to the intention of the Dominion Government to establish an ore testing mill in British Columbia. It was thought that an appropriation of \$40,000 would be made at the last session of the Federal Parliament, Ottawa, to carry out the project. This action, however, was not taken, so that the mill will not be started this year. Assurances have been received that the financial support necessary will be forthcoming in 1919. It is said that the officials of the Mines Department, Ottawa, realize the need of such a plant in this province; that they appreciate that the operators of the complex ore mines of the Slocan, Boundary and other districts would be materially aided in putting their properties on a paying basis were the means provided by which they could obtain accurate information as to the most economical method of treating their ores; and that it is believed that it is in the general interest of the mining industry throughout Canada that the step referred to be taken with the least possible loss of time.

Increased Wages at Trail.

The Canadian Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. has granted to the employes at its Trail Smeltery a war bonus which gives them an additional 15 cents a day for every working day in the month of May and for six months, starting with June 1st, 1918, an extra 25 cents per day. It is explained that this action has been taken because of a realization that there has been a further increase in the cost of living within the past several months.

Searching for Platinum in B.C.

The quest for platinum in British Columbia is to be vigorously prosecuted this summer. Mention has been made heretofore of the fact that the Dominion Government has put competent engineers in the field for the purpose of investigating reported occurrences of the mineral as well as of the fact that the intention is to examine the placers of the Tulameen District, British Columbia, and some sections of the Cariboo. Since it has been learned that the Department of Mines, Ottawa, proposes to purchase two additional drills and that the intention is to place these drills on placer ground in British Columbia with a view to the establishment of platinum values. If occupied ground is selected a covenant will be obtained from the owners that, in the event of the mineral being located, energetic work in