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## Mining Development of British Columbia

**While Nothing Spectacular Has Occurred in the Mining Field, Numerous Properties Have the Earmarks of Developing Into Permanent Shippers—Character of Development Is Sound.**

With the approach of winter, field work in the mining districts of British Columbia is drawing to a close. Not since the outbreak of war have so many prospectors and engineers been in the field as during the present season, and while it is too late yet to pass upon the relative value of the finds that have been made and the developments on new prospects, yet there is some clear definition of progress in the opening up of the mining resources of the Province.

The shipping mines of the Province have had a mixed experience during the spring and summer. With the exception of copper and gold, prices have been reasonably satisfactory, high operating costs have left some mines with small operating profits or have restricted their outputs. In the mining of copper, this is particularly true. Exploratory work underground had to be discontinued and only those mining and smelting operations which warranted low costs were generally being prosecuted. The searching for and the mining of gold has, during the spring and summer, not been especially successful, and those mines operating on low grade ore have either had to curtail operations or have been working on very low margins of profit. It is probable that until operating costs have decreased there will not be much encouragement toward the development of low grade deposits and so far this season no high grade deposits have been encountered among prospectors or field men.

In the mining of coal, notwithstanding increasing prices, not much progress has been made in increasing production and at the present time there is a strike in the Crow's Nest Pass district called by the One Big Union organization which, although not expected to last long, is nevertheless strangely persistent. The difficulty in securing capital except at increasing expense, is perhaps delaying development of our coal resources. On Vancouver Island very little development work is being proceeded with and in the Crow's Nest Pass district, practically none is in progress. On the Eastern slope of the Rockies, several promising coal properties are

being opened up and will be added to the list of shippers during the early winter. But in British Columbia only three or four properties are being developed with no prospect, with one exception, of being added to the list of shippers this year.

In the field of metal mining, considerable development has occurred during the past summer which is auspicious for increasing mineral production in the future. The experience of the past summer in the Salmon River district, has been of a mixed variety. The Premier mine has been opened up and shows mineralization at depth and of wide extent. This property will undoubtedly be a persistent and large shipper in the future. While numerous properties under option for development have been dropped at the end of the season, there will likely be several new shippers in the district opened up when development has proceeded further. The signs of making permanent camps in the Salmon and Bear River Valleys are growing brighter as development progresses, but this development must be carried along on sound lines and removed from the color of the boom unless its development will bring loss to a large number of those who participate ill-advisedly. A large number of prospectors during the season were operating across the range in the Unuk Valley, and a large number of promising finds have been made but transportation is very difficult in that district and until a great deal of development with the opening up of large ore bodies has been brought about, improved transportation will not be advisable as a financial proposition.

In the Alice Arm district a great deal of success has been attained during the past season and this district will undoubtedly prove to be a large and permanent silver camp. The Dolly Varden Mine, the outstanding figure in the district and now attaining large dimensions, is proving up more favorably than could have been hoped for. Both in enrichment of ore and at depth, the ore bodies are consistent and heavily mineralized. Development in other properties in the district has brought to light several prospects with great promise, but much additional work will be required before many of the pros-

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