

*"Platinum and Other Minerals Found in the Ultra-Basic Rocks," by William Tomlinson, E.M.
New Denver.*

Mr. Tomlinson on the staff of the Munition Resources Commission in Canada during the war, directed his talk to the prospectors entirely. He spoke of the peculiarities of chromite, molybdenite, tungsten, platinum and others of the rarer metals. There were deposits, or indications of all those named, as well as of others, in British Columbia. The trouble, he stated, was that the average prospector did not recognize them when he saw them. It was more than likely that he would walk right over chromite, for instance, and systematic education of the prospectors was required. Mr. Tomlinson recounted his experiences in the Franklin Camp and the finding there of platinum in place. Mr. Tomlinson concluded with a very strong plea for government assistance on behalf of the prospector. This duty had been neglected in the Northwest to such an extent that there were few men, comparatively speaking, going into the hills. In California alone had he found the educated prospector. The men he had seen there were hard to deceive when it came to the appraisalment of mineral. There was no reason why such a condition should not be developed in B.C. and he recommended that mining schools should be opened in the different mineral districts during the winter months. This would enable men to employ their idle time in acquiring knowledge and fitting them for the summer's work. He also expressed the hope that all the District Mining Engineers would place exhibits of the rarer minerals at their headquarters for the benefit of prospectors and others.

"Straight Talk" From a Veteran.

J. J. Mulholland, a pioneer prospector, gave what was entitled a "straight talk." He briefly outlined his experiences in the wilds of the Northwest and referred to the future of the great unexplored northwest section of the province in a mining sense as being full of promise. He thought it likely that there would be found another Klondyke somewhere along the great rivers of the Peace River and adjacent districts. It was his intention, in fact, he already had completed plans, to conduct an expedition into the Mackenzie River Country. Of course, the great difficulty, even if a strike were made, was that of transportation.

During the last few years there had been comparatively little prospecting and the reason was hard to find. It was true that the prospectors were given little encouragement. In the old days it was not hard to obtain a grub-stake, but now if a miner asked a merchant for one it was likely that the latter would express doubts of his sanity. The construction of trunk trails into the unexpected areas he thought was a desirable move, because there was no doubt that it was extremely hard to travel through the heavily wooded and mountainous frontiers of this province. The teaching of mineralogy and geology in the public schools would help and he thought that each Mineral Survey District should be provided with a map showing its topographical peculiarities and the mineralized zones.

Illustrating the results of prospectors working in the darkness of ignorance he said that 30 odd pounds of high grade tin ore had been found in a prospector's shack in Northern British Columbia. This prospector had had the ore assayed for gold and silver and, having got an unsatisfactory return, paid no more attention to it. Subsequently this man had died in the

Yukon. Efforts had been made to find the deposit from which these samples came without success up to the present.

Prospectors, should be able to get reports on their prospects from the Government Mining Engineers; they should have assaying done free of charge; and should have the benefit of winter schools. He also advocated that the price of powder to miners be reduced and that the duty should be taken off mill machinery, inasmuch as the greater part of this was imported from the United States.

Summary Review of Mining and the Distribution of Minerals in the Kootenays.

Mr. A. G. Langley, District Engineer for Mineral Survey District No. 5 pointed out that his District was responsible for the entire Lead-Zinc production of Canada and was second only to the Cobalt in silver output. The principal methods mined, taken in the order of the value of production, were: lead, zinc, silver, gold and copper.

Referring to the importance of Rossland as a gold camp Mr. Langley said that the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company had recently curtailed the production of their properties pending the installation of a concentrator to treat the low grade sulphides. When this was completed a considerable increase in output was contemplated.

Discussing the Yankee Girl at Ymir Camp it is pointed out that this property has been a substantial producer of gold in the past, that in 1918 about 8,000 tons of ore were shipped to the Greenwood Smelter, from which very favorable rates were obtained "due to the fact that the ore was suitable for mixing with those of the Boundary District." Shipments, he stated, had been suspended in December of 1918, "but there is reported to be a considerable tonnage of milling ore available, and judging from reports it is a property well worthy of further investigation with a view to installing a concentrator to treat the low grade sulphides. The principal values are in gold and silver."

In the Central Mineral Belt of the Trout lake Mining Division, extending from Camborne to Poplar Creek, numerous prospects have been located.

Near Camborne the Eva and Oyster Criterion, which are both equipped with ten stamp mills, have had a considerable amount of development work done on them, and there is said to be a large tonnage of low grade ore available. Numerous other properties in this vicinity have been prospected. Among others the Burniere Group at the head of Scott Creek is said to have a good showing."

Discussing the copper production Mr. Langley dealt with the Rossland Camp; the Mountain Chief Mine at Ranata on Arrow Lake, recently come into prominence; the California Mine near Nelson, which had leased the Athabasca Mill and was likely soon to be on a producing basis; and to the Trojan Mine, on Boulder Creek, Windermere District, the management of which were contemplating the erection of a small concentrator. He spoke also of the Eureka Mine, where a considerable body of low grade ore has been encountered in the southern end of the main workings, and stated that the management had leased the Granite Poorman Mill, and installed a Zeigler Flotation Machine. The values of the Eureka, which is situated close to Nelson, are in copper, silver, and gold.

Dealing with Lead-Silver-Zinc, and Lead-Silver-Zinc Gold-Zinc Ores, Mr. Langley said, in regard to the former, that the Kootenays produced more of this