The Case For Better Terms

British Columbia's Evidence and Argument For Fair Treatment From Ottawa.

Government's Memorandum in Matter of Readjustment of Financial Relations.

The memorandum for better terms prepared by the local government and embodying its case for consideration by the federal authorities is herewith presented in its entirety:

His Excellency at the recent opening of parliament having intimated that provincial autonomy would be granted to the Northwest Territories, and in view of the possible readjustment at the same time of the financial relations between the provinces and the Dominion, the government of British Columbia desire to place on record and reiterate the claims of this province for distinct and separate relief.

The relief sought is from an insufficiency of revenue arising out of causes constant in operation and peculiar to British Columbia.

These causes render it impossible to provide for the responsibilities of local administration imposed under the Terms of Union, without creating intolerable burdens of taxation or exhausting the resources of provincial credit.

It was intended by the framers of the B. N. A. Act, as will be shown, that the amount of revenue left to the provinces after confederation should be adequate for the performance of all local services; and, therefore, the government submit as a basis of their claims that it is constitutionally incumbent upon the Dominion authorities to increase the allowance wherever and whenever it can be shown that such circumstances do not exist.

To review the steps that have been taken towards obtaining a recognition of the claims of the province, early in 1901 a deputation from the government of British Columbia interviewed the Dominion authorities upon a number of matters as between, or affecting the relations of, the two governments, one of which was the subject-matter of this memorandum.

Prior to that time, upon several occasions in the federal parliament attention was called to the large contributions from the province to the federal treasury in the way of customs and inland revenues. By comparisons with the rest of Canada these were shown to be in the ratio of three to one. Attention had also been called to these facts in the local legislature on several occasions as forming a just claim for increased subventions by the Dominion to railway enterprises in the province.

In the memorandum submitted by the delegation of 1901 was a tabulated statement showing the contributions to the federal treasury from, and the expenditure by the Dominion in, the province of British Columbia since 1871. This statement has been completed by the addition of the figures for the years 1901-2-3, and appears in the appendices hereto. From this statement it will be seen that during 22 years the province has contributed to the revenues of Canada the sum of $49,397,238, and has received in expenditures in return the sum of $32,454,382, and that the excess of contributions over expenditures is about $17,000,000.

The cost of no portion of the construction of the C. P. R., which like the canal system of Eastern Canada is national in its character, was included in this statement; but as pointed out, there is included the cost of other services which are national and would not be chargeable to any of the Maritime Provinces in an accounting of a similar nature.

That British Columbia has much more than borne its rightful share of the expenses of governing Canada is demonstrated by the fact that while on its part it exhibits this surplus of $17,000,000, the net debt of the Dominion has risen from $80,000,000 in 1872 to over $261,500,000 in 1903, or an increase of about $181,500,000. Not only, however, has British Columbia contributed thus unduly to the federal treasury, but it has become liable for its share of the general liability of the Dominion, which share according to population is, roughly speaking, $9,000,000.

All this is in addition to the disproportionate burden of administering a province, the physical conditions of which render it many times more expensive than other provinces.

Attention is called to a statement in the appendices of what the results in a financial way would have been had the contributions of the whole of Canada to the federal treasury been in the same proportion as those from British Columbia; and, conversely, what the results of British Columbia's contributions would have been had they been in the same proportion as from the rest of Canada.

The position created as the result of our financial relations was stated in the memorandum of 1901 as follows:

"A province has a certain population and contributes a certain revenue. What it pays as imposts to the treasury is, per capita, its impost or burden of government. Computations on that basis in various ways show, as a general and almost invariable result, that for a whole period of years the burden has been two and three-quarter times that of the rest of Canada, taken as a whole."

Attention was also called to the duty paid indirectly by the people of the province on goods brought from Eastern Canada upon which duty had been collected at eastern ports of entry and added to the price at the western end. From data acquired on the subject by the provincial government in 1897, the duty thus indirectly paid then amounted to about $300,000 per annum. The total amount paid since 1871 is estimated to have been $6,000,000.

Although the delegation of 1901 did not make a special feature of the arguments arising out of the physical disabilities of the province, it was kept in mind, as the following shows:

"In this connection, too, we must also consider the very much greater cost per capita involved in the development and government of a province like British Columbia, where the physical features are so rugged and distances so great, and communication so difficult and expensive, and the population is comparatively sparse."

Reference was also made to the increased burden upon the consumer in British Columbia by reason of the large freight bills on goods coming from Eastern centres; and also to the disadvantages arising out of the extremely western position of British Columbia in respect to finding a profitable market for what is produced therein.

In January of the year 1903 a second delegation went to Ottawa to confer with the representatives of other provinces on the subject of financial relations generally, and in particular to lay before the Dominion authorities the claims of British Columbia for increased subsidies, apart from any general settlement made in behalf of all the provinces.

At the conference which took place special stress was laid upon several aspects of the question, which differentiated the claims of British Columbia from those of other provinces and demanded special consideration. (See page 9 of the appendices.)

It may be urged that the province of British Columbia is bound by the terms of the memorandum adopted by the Quebec inter-provincial conference, inasmuch as it was signed by the members of the British Columbia delegation. By reference, however, to this memorandum it will be found that it embodies a letter to the premier of Quebec, convener of the conference, from the premier of British Columbia, presenting the special claims of the province and expressly stipulating that concurrence in the joint memorial was subject to the rights of the province to special consideration on account of exceptional conditions. Adherence was given to the principles involved in the resolutions of the conference setting forth the reasons for readjustment as applicable in a greater or less degree to all the provinces; but it was held that in the case of British Columbia not only was the force of these reasons greatly intensified, but that there were considerations forming additional reasons which did not at all apply to the other provinces and for which additional allowance should be made.

It was stated by the delegation of 1903 that—

"The position we take is not that the Dominion government has violated the Terms of Union, or that we are entitled to compensation for lack of fulfilment in any substantial respect, as the performance of a legal contract could be construed; but we do contend that in the development of the constitution, in its actual operation, from the date of confederation in 1871, a state of affairs has grown up in British Columbia and in the Dominion, as the result of the union between the two, that has established a moral right and a sound constitutional claim on our part for increased recognition—a state of affairs that was not anticipated by either party to the federal compact."

The historical and constitutional arguments in support of the claims were summarized as follows:

"That there is an absolute precedent in the Nova Scotia settlement of 1868, inasmuch as, without any charge of violation of the Terms of Union by the Dominion, the claims of Nova Scotia were recognized on the grounds that the sources of revenue left to the province were not sufficient to meet local requirements, and on the grounds generally that the peculiar geographical position and exceptional conditions of that province demanded a revision of the financial arrangements. It was admitted in parliament that there were substantial grounds for the claims made, that there was an injustice, and that it was incumbent upon the Dominion government to redress grievances where they existed, not only on moral grounds, but to ensure the success of confederation.

"That, after careful investigation and reference to the best and highest authorities, it was competent for the parliament to adjust financial relations, where necessary, without a change in the British North America Act.

"That the principle once established, and as a matter of fact put in force on several subsequent occasions in respect to other provinces, it is not only competent, but a matter of right and constitutional necessity on the part of the Dominion to apply that principle wherever and whenever the circumstances justify it.

"That it is recognized that the Act of Union is a contract and a treaty binding for all time to come, but that it is not a contract like the laws of the Medes and Persians, invariable, but subject to modification as circumstances demand, as the resolutions of the premiers presented to you yesterday premise. At the time of the British North America Act, or the British Columbia Terms of Union, were passed, it was impossible for either party to foresee the results of union, or to fix in an absolutely definite way, and unalterably the financial relations, so as to provide equitably for all time to come for the requirements of both classes of governments; and that it was the evident intention of the framers that adequate provision should be made for both.

"That, with reference to British Columbia, although it is not contended that it was forced into confederation as it is claimed Nova Scotia was, yet the circumstances and conditions of the province were such that there was but little alternative left to her in the matter of terms.

"That the terms were not the terms the people of British Columbia asked for and believed were necessary for the adequate administration of local affairs and the development of the country.

"That, as shown by the debates which took place both in the local House and in the houses of parliament at Ottawa, in neither case were the framers of the terms able to accurately or even approximately foresee what the results would be, and that in a great measure for both it was a leap in the dark.

"That the people of British Columbia did, from a local knowledge of their own province, appreciate the necessity and stipulate for a much larger provision for the financial requirements of the province than was conceded by the Dominion.

"That the Dominion government did not agree to the terms of British Columbia for the reason that they feared and believed that this province would remain a drag on the Dominion, and it is well known that they could only secure a ratification of the treaty in the House by granting the least favorable conditions possible. The government at Ottawa, in the matter of British Columbia, acted solely on the policy of creating a nation extending from ocean to ocean, and in doing so were under the conviction that they were assuming burdens quite out of proportion to the value of the province as an asset—in other words, sacrificing material interests to a large extent in the interests of patriotic sentiment—that of 'rounding out confederation.' The whole debate confirms that view of it absolutely.

"That the reasons which dictated the policy of the government at that time have been shown by the developments which have taken place in British Columbia, and the financial results which followed, to have been entirely and absolutely erroneous and unfounded.

"And that, therefore, although the framers of that treaty were without doubt honest, high-minded, and, from the knowledge they possessed then, justified in that course, their reasons having proved unfounded, the government of today is entitled in equity to recognize the consequences of those errors and compensate for the inordinate benefits the Dominion has received, and also increase the allowance for the requirements of the public service in a province demanding so extraordinary a rate of expenditure for its settlement and development."

The delegation then proceeded to present a statement of facts bearing on the peculiar conditions and position of the province, under the following heads:

1. The cost of administration, owing to the physical character of the country.

2. The distance from the commercial, industrial and administrative centres of Eastern Canada.

3. The non-industrial character of the province, as compared with Eastern Canada, whereby a larger percentage of goods are imported and consumed, increasing the contributions to the federal treasury, in the way of taxes, in the ratio of three to one.

4. The disadvantage of the province in relation to the markets for its special products.

The statement of the case, as above, will be found in full in the appendices to this memorandum at page 9.

In the summer of 1903 a third delegation from British Columbia interviewed Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the Dominion cabinet at Ottawa, and strongly urged their consideration of the facts that had been submitted by previous delegations.

The principal object of this delegation, however, was to impress upon the Dominion authorities a proposal for the reference of the claims of the province to a joint high commission, consisting of three members to be named, one by the Dominion government, one by the government of British Columbia, and one by the Imperial colonial secretary.

Having presented the foregoing resume of former negotiations, it is here proper to observe that the claims being presented by the other provinces for increased subsidies are similar in character to some of those of British Columbia, with this important distinction, that the reasons which alike give them foundation are greatly accentuated in the case of this province.

With regard to the reasons for financial readjustment contained in the resolutions adopted by the Quebec international conference of 1902, it is submitted that it is a fair presentment to say that they are, mainly, as follows:

(1) That new conditions have arisen since confederation which were unforeseen or not provided against at that time.

(2) That the financial resources of the several provinces, as determined by statute, are no longer sufficient to meet the expenditure necessary to adequately administer the affairs of the provinces and efficiently promote their further development.

(3) That the growth of population, by reason of development, the result of efforts on the part of both the Dominion and Provincial governments, increases the financial responsibilities of the provinces without a corresponding increase of revenue, as a consequence, and without provision for a corresponding increase of subsidy to meet it.

(4) That it was the evident intention of the framers of the Terms of Union to make adequate financial provision for the requirements of the Dominion and Provincial governments for all time to come.

It is assumed that it will be for these reasons, and for these reasons alone, that a general readjustment of financial relations will, if effected, be brought about.

In this connection, the remarks of Hon. S. N. Parent and of Hon. G. W. Ross are noteworthy, and a few of the more pertinent of their observations are given in the appendices at page 12.

Taking the foregoing considerations as applicable, in common, to the claims of British Columbia, they have, as intimated, exceptional force, the evidence of which exists in two main facts—

(a) The charges against the province through customs and excise revenues, to which may properly be added heavy freight bills, arising out of long distance from centres of supply in the East, are several times greater than in the other provinces, and thus to that extent lessen the ability to maintain the cost of local administration.

(b) The responsibilities of population involved in the increase of population in British Columbia, as will be shown, are several times greater than elsewhere in Canada, by reason of a combination of disadvantageous conditions, mainly physical in their nature.

The contentions of the Quebec conference that increased subsidies to the provinces to permit of their still further development would bring increased revenues to the Dominion as a compensation, apply with peculiar force to the particular case of British Columbia. This province has, admittedly, great sources of wealth. Obviously, however, owing to the physical obstacles to overcome, to make these sources available by development, an expenditure very much larger than in other provinces is required; but as British Columbia has in the past contributed, and in the future must continue to contribute, in an excessive ratio to the federal treasury, as compared with the rest of Canada, so the Dominion for relatively increased subsidies to this province will reap a corresponding increase in revenues to the treasury and in benefits to trade and industry.

The conditions, permanent in character, which accentuate the position of British Columbia, considered in relation to the other provinces, have previously been enumerated.

To arrive at a definite basis upon which to submit a claim in a stated sum as compensation on account of such conditions and physical disabilities, which increase abnormally the cost of provincial administration compared with the average conditions of the rest of the Dominion, a full and detailed examination has been made covering the expenditures of all the provinces for various services since 1871.

The first of these conditions, which refers to the mountainous surface, is one which clearly differentiates the case of this province from that of every other province. The extreme limit of the arable land is about one-twenty-fourth of the entire surface, or at the very outside 10,000,000 acres, much of which cannot be classed other than pasture land, out of 240,000,000 acres. The habitable area is mainly restricted to the arable portions. This lies more or less evenly distributed in widely separated narrow valleys immured by precipitous mountain sides. This is a condition which finds no parallel in Canada among the other provinces, the distinct effect of which upon the cost of provincial administration may, by an examination of the statistics referred to, be ascertained in some degree of definiteness. It is a condition which neither settlement nor development can alter in the slightest, and on account of which settlements are small in area, isolated in position and difficult of access. As a consequence, the province pays per head of its population for roads, streets and bridges over twenty times as much in the average as the same services cost in the other provinces for the five years, 1898-1902, as the following table shows:

Annual Expenditure Per Head for Roads, Streets and Bridges.

Provinces.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Av'r'ge
British Columbia	$2 30	$3 74	$1 89	$2 94	$3 68	$2 91
New Brunswick	47	48	49	72	89	61
Prince Edward Island	..	31	42½	42½	88	38½
Nova Scotia	19	18½	20	25½	20½	20 7-10
Manitoba	26	17½	25	13	15	19 3-10
Quebec	06½	08	11	11½	07	08 4-5
Ontario	05	04	07	06	09½	06 3-10
Average						22 7-10
Averages of all the provinces other than British Columbia						13 2-5

To the cost per mile, and not to the mileage or the sparse population, is due this abnormal expenditure for road construction in British Columbia. Its 6,000 miles of wagon roads, which are wholly inadequate to the needs of the districts they serve and far from a state of completion, based on the standard of Eastern Canada, have cost on an average over $2,000 per mile. For purposes of comparison, it will be fair to take, not the numerous roads in the older settled sections of Eastern Canada, built for the main part by statute labor, but the expensive mining and colonization roads in the new and northern part of Ontario, in which the conditions more nearly approach those in British Columbia. For 18 years, 1876-1885, in Algoma, Muskoka and other parts the average cost of construction of new roads was $294 per mile for over 2,000 miles (vide Sessional Papers, Ontario, 1885, Return No. 24). Thus the ratio of cost is 7 to 1. This disparity is as enduring as the mountains which gave rise to it. It may be argued, however, that the addition of municipal expenditure to provincial expenditure would vary the results, to the prejudice of British Columbia. There is difficulty in obtaining municipal statistics for all the provinces. In Ontario and British Columbia, however, there are complete statistics which are available for comparison. It is pointed out, too, that when Ontario went into confederation it was largely municipalized, and that all previous liabilities for public works were assumed by Canada as a whole. In Ontario and British Columbia's municipal expenditure per head for 1901 (as a convenient year) for roads, streets and bridges, to the foregoing provincial average per head for five years, we have—

	B.C.	Ontario.
Provincial expenditure for roads per head per year for five years	$2 91	$0 06 3-10
Municipal expenditure for roads per head for year 1901	1 58	1 63
Total	$4 49	$1 69 3-10

Showing an annual sum of $2.79 7-10 per head, or a sum of $466,425 to place British Columbia on an equal footing with Ontario with respect to the item of provincial and municipal expenditure for this service alone.

British Columbia's per capita expenditure for civil government, arising out of the services of the government required in widely scattered communities, is over nine times that of the average of the other provinces, as the following table shows:

Annual Expenditure Per Head for Civil Government.

Provinces.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Average.
British Columbia	$0 87	$0 82	$1 01	$1 28	$1 31	$1 06
Quebec	21½	17	17½	16½	16	16 9-10
Manitoba	12	15½	13	15	15	15½
Ontario	11½	11½	12	13	13	12 1-5
New Brunswick	08	09	09	09	09	08 4-5
Prince Edward Island	06	05	05½	06	07	06
Nova Scotia	05	04½	04½	04½	04½	04 3-5

Another service that is peculiarly affected by the conditions referred to is that of the administration of justice, which is four times that of the average per capita cost in the other provinces, as compare by the subjoined table:

Annual Expenditure Per Head for Administration of Justice.

Provinces.	1898.	1899.	1900	1901.	1902.	Average.
British Columbia	$1 11	$1 15	$0 69	$0 59	$0 61	$0 83
Quebec	32½	31	32	30	37	32½
Ontario	20	19	19½	19	19½	19 2-5
Prince Edward Island	16	14½	16	17	20	16 7-10
Manitoba	11	13	10½	12	14	12
New Brunswick	06	04½	05½	05	06	06 1-5
Nova Scotia	03	03	03	03	03	03

For hospitals and charities the per capita expenditure is five times the average of the other provinces, as the following table indicates:

Annual Expenditure Per Head for Hospitals and Charities.

Provinces.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Average.
British Columbia	$0 32	$0 36	$0 31	$0 46	$0 43	$0 38
Nova Scotia	13½	13	13	12½	16½	13 7-10
Ontario	09	09	09	09	10	09 1-5
Manitoba	07	06½	07	11	07	07 7-10
Prince Edward Island	06½	06½	07½	07	07	06 9-10
New Brunswick	02	02	02	02	02½	02

Taking together these four services, it is found that the cost to British Columbia per head of the population is over nine times that of the average of all the other provinces, as the following table shows:

Average Expenditure Per Head for Five Years, 1898 to 1902.

Provinces.	Roads, Etc.	Civil. Govt.	Justice.	Hospital, Etc.	Total
British Columbia	$2 91	$1 06	$0 83	$0 38	$5 18
New Brunswick	61	08 4-5	06 1-5	02	78
Prince Edward Island	38½	06	16 7-10	06 9-10	68 1-10
Quebec	08 4-5	16 9-10	32½	02 2-3	60 3-10
Manitoba	19 3-10	15½	12	07 7-10	54½
Ontario	06 3-10	12 1-5	19 2-5	09 1-5	47 1-10
Nova Scotia	20 7-10	04 3-5	03	13 7-10	42
Average					$0 69 3-10
Average of all the provinces other than British Columbia					53 9-10

Taking the total per capita expenditure for all the provinces for all services for the five years, 1898-1902, it will be found from the table below that British Columbia is nearly five times that of the average of all the other provinces, and that the difference between British Columbia's annual per capita expenditure of $12.61 and that of all the provinces (including British Columbia) of $2.66 is the yearly sum of $9.95 per head of the population, or requiring the yearly sum of $1,706,222 to place it on all fours with the rest of the provinces.

Total Expenditures for all Services in Provinces for Five Years.

Provinces.	Average population for 5 years.	Total expenditure for 5 years.	Amount per head per year.
British Columbia	171,489	$10,813,905	$12 61
Manitoba	245,469	5,132,134	4 18
Prince Edward Island	103,267	1,523,494	2 94½
Quebec	1,626,454	22,667,010	2 69½
New Brunswick	320,377	4,027,154	2 44
Nova Scotia	458,882	4,815,900	2 10
Ontario	2,177,751	19,969,942	1 37½
	5,124,109	$68,341,939	$ 2 66

Provinces.	Average population for 30 years.	Total expenditure for 30 years.	Average per head per year.
British Columbia	90,634	$ 32,243,608	$11 86
Manitoba	123.801	16,025,974	4 31
Prince Edward Island	104,062	6,179,906	2 04
Quebec	1 421,994	104,027,881	2 44
New Brunswick	314,802	20,881,060	2 16
Ontario	1,961,260	105,798,513	1 79
Nova Scotia	434,585	21,525,863	1 65
	4.451,138	$309,182,264	$ 2 32

The striking inequality in expenditures disclosed by a comparison between British Columbia and the other provinces, and the similarity, amounting almost to uniformity, shown to exist among the latter, point unmistakably to some cause permanently operating in this province to account for the difference in results.

It is impossible, having in view all the facts, to escape the conclusion that this cause is the vast area of mountainous surface in British Columbia, which enters as a controlling factor into every branch of provincial administration.

The second cause which operates disadvantageously towards British Columbia is its position in relation to other provnces and other countries, which adds, as additional imposts, long-distance freights to the first cost of articles imported for use and for local manufactures; and also minimizes to an unusual degree the advantages to be derived from inter-provincial trade, which was the commercial object of confederation.

In regard to freights, the matter was dealt with in the report of the first delegation of 1903, as follows:

"In Eastern Canada—in what we may call old Canada—the cost to the consumer, conveyed from ports of entry like Montreal, Toronto, Halifax and other cities, varies, from the nearest points to the most distant from 12½ cents per 100 lbs. to 50 cents. It may, in exceptional cases, reach 75 cents. The official through rate from Eastern distributing or terminal points to Western terminals varies, according to the classification of goods, from $2 to $2.35 per 100 lbs. What are known as commodity rates, to meet competition from New York to San Francisco and other Coast points, are however, lower than that. In addition to that, while the consumer in the East only pays one local rate, the people in the interior not only pay the through rate to the Coast, but the local rate back again, which in some cases equals the through rate."

In regard to inter-provincial trade, it has been set out by Mr. George Johnson, statistician to the Dominion, in this way:

Trade of the two central provinces with the other provinces	$150,000,000
Trade of the two central provinces with each other	115,000,000
Trade of the three Maritime provinces with each other	30,000,000
Trade of the Western provinces and territories with each other	20,000,000
Total	$315,000,000

Or, say, $60 per head.

The products of British Columbia which are exported to other provinces, though extremely limited, consist chiefly of lumber, shingles, fish and fruit, and of goods to the Yukon. From the latest available statistics these are estimated at one time in $3,000,000, or 1 per cent. of the whole inter-provincial trade of Canada. Thus this province, having 3 per cent. of the whole population, pays 8 per cent. of the price of confederation, and gets in return 1 per cent. of its trade benefits.

The third head under which our disadvantages in confederation are compared with the other provinces is the non-industrial character of the population, which arises out of conditions unfavorable to manufacturing as developed in Eastern Canada. The special products of British Columbia—mineral, fish and lumber—are not the raw materials which enter into the manufacture of dutiable goods most largely consumed in the province. This condition accounts for the larger percentage of goods imported, which increases the contributions to the federal treasury so disproportionately. An analysis of the census returns of 1901 show to what unusual extent the population of British Columbia is employed in mining, lumbering and fishing, and relatively to what limited degree it is engaged in agricultural pursuits and manufactory, with corresponding results in the nature of their respective products.

And, lastly, as a consequence of the limited market for special products of British Columbia in the East from which its people buy so extensively, a market has to be found for these in Great Britain and foreign lands, where they come in competition with cheap labor products of the world. Adopting the language of a former memorial, "We have had to pay long-distance freights on both what we bought and sold; we have been obliged to reverse the order of successful business principles and buy in the dearest market and sell in the cheapest." Under this handicap have our present industries been created, and in regard to others, such as the manufacture of iron and steel, and of pulp and paper, the natural conditions for which are so favorable, and whose development is naturally so important, the securing of profitable markets so far from the centres of population is by far the most serious of the problems to solve in their undertaking.

CATTLE RANCHE FOR SALE.

The Estate of the late Paul I. Gillie, deceased, situated at Nicola Lake, Yale District, B. C., containing some 1,700 acres, and with dwelling house, stable, sheds and implements necessary for working the Ranche; also some 220 cattle and 8 horses.

The property is situated on the Nicola Coal Field about a quarter of a mile from Nicola Lake P. O., and is one of the most beautiful locations in the Country.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned for the Ranche and Cattle, together or separately, up till 1st May next.

Parties wishing for further information will be supplied with full particulars on application.

JAMES CHAPMAN,
JAMES D. GILLIE,
Executors.

February 1, 1905.

TIMBER LICENSES.

NOTICE is hereby given that thirty-days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described lands, situated on Braden Creek, a tributary of Gordon River, Renfrew District: Commencing at post marked Alex'r Young, S. West corner, thence east 80 chains, thence north 40 chains, east 40 chains, north 40 chains, west 80 chains, south 40 chains, west 40 chains, thence south 40 chains to place of commencement, containing 640 acres.

Dated at Port Renfrew, on the 25th day of January, 1905.

ALEX'R YOUNG.

The Use and Management of Incubators

Best Machines are Cheapest—Directons Should be Followed.

W. A. Clemons, Dept. Agriculture, Ottawa.

At this season of the year the incubator question is an important one to the poultryman, says Mr. F. C. Elford, acting chief of the poultry division, Ottawa. An inexperienced person or beginner in the poultry business should exercise the same care and judgment in buying an incubator that a farmer would use in selecting an expensive farm implement. In other words, he should take care to buy the best. It is simply wasting money to buy a poor machine, as it can never be depended upon. With a first-class machine, all that the beginner has to do is to learn to run his machine according to the manufacturer's directions. Five or ten minutes, morning and night, will be all the time required to care for the machine, and it can be depended upon to maintain the proper degree of heat and bring the eggs to a successful termination of the hatch if the operator simply follows the instructions and does not interfere with the machine or attempt experiments on his own behalf. He is not likely to know more about the machine than the manufacturer.

To be considered first class, an incubator must not only hatch a large percentage of chicks, but those hatched must be large, strong and lively. The test of incubation is not alone in the number hatched, but also in the health, vigor and hardiness of the chicks and their ability to live and thrive. Faulty incubators are responsible for the death of many small chicks. Being poorly hatched, that is, hatched with 10 or 20 or 30 per cent less vitality than they should have, they struggle against heavy odds and die off in large numbers in the brooders. If, by buying a low-priced and poorly-constructed incubator, a man gets a 20 per cent lower hatch or gets 20 per cent lower vigor in the chicks that do hatch, he has bought the probability of failure in buying that machine.

A large hatch of strong chicks cannot be expected unless the eggs used are from a pen of thrifty, vigorous fowls. If the breeding stock is facking in vitality the chicks are sure to be weak. The fresher the eggs are, the greater is the vitality of the germs and the more chicks they will hatch. It is not advisable to use for hatching eggs that are more than ten days old, and these should be tested twice during the incubation period. The use of a simple egg-tester will enable a man to know what percentage of the eggs are fertile, and thus prevent him blaming the machine when it is not at fault.

The advantages of a really good incubator are not all summed up in the larger hatches and the greater strength and vigor of the chicks. Such a machine renders us independent of the vagaries of the broody hen, and enables us to get chicks when we want them. How much this means a study of market prices reveals. Every one knows that the price of eggs is very high in the fall and winter, owing to the fact that the hens have not recovered from moulting and the pullets have not yet begun to lay. Obviously then, if we want eggs to sell when prices are high, we should hatch our chickens of the American varieties in April or May and of the Mediterranean varieties in May; then feed the pullets for growth so they will be mature and laying by November. The same thing holds good with chickens for market. The greatest profits are made by putting our eggs, our broilers and our fatter chickens for the home or export trade upon the market when supplies are scarcest and prices highest.

If an incubator is to be purchased, it should be ordered early, as there are apt to be vexatious delays in shipment and delivery and it is always advisable that the operator have an opportunity to run the machine for a few days before the eggs are placed in it, or until the regulation is understood and the temperature of the egg-chamber can be maintained at 102½ degrees Fahrenheit. The incubator should be placed in a well ventilated room, preferably one unheated. The chicks developing in the shells require an abundance of fresh air. A bright airy cellar or a well ventilated room having an even temperature is the best place. The ventilation should be so arranged that there will be outside air entering the room at all times, but without a direct draught blowing on the machine.

Finally, let me repeat the advice to follow implicitly the directions that accompany the machine. Study carefully the instructions regarding the care of the lamp and the control of temperature, the turning, cooling and testing of the eggs, and all other details. Then, when hatching commences let the machine alone. It is too late to rectify mistakes in management, and interference can only injure the hatch. The chicks should be left in the machine until they are thoroughly dry and should not be fed the first day. When feeding commences be careful to feed sparingly. More small chicks are killed by over-feeding than by under-feeding.

Mines and Mining

B. C. Review, London.

The value of the mineral output of British Columbia last year was approximately as follows: Gold, $6,400,000; silver, $2,200,000; copper, $4,600,000; lead, $1,500,000; coal, $3,270,000; coke, $1,200,000; miscellaneous, $600,000; total, $19,770,000. This is an increase of $2,274,046, as compared with 1903, and the record, everything considered, especially with a shortage of water at Rossland, will be regarded as a very good one. The total output from that district was 342,324 tons, of a value of $4,400,012, which is an excellent showing, and the total tonnage for eleven years since ore was first produced is 2,020,193 tons, of a total value of $30,216,354.

That this has been a better year for the mines of Rossland and the Boundary than was the year 1903, is evident from the local traffic returns of the C. P. R., which hauled from the gold-copper mines of those sections at least 100,000 tons more tons during the past twelve months than in the previous year. The outlook for coming year is even brighter tha that for the past probably, but some disappointment may be felt that the output from the Boundary country has fallen short of one million tons, though it reached 810,000 tons, an appreciable advance as compared with 1903. The Granby mines, of course, lead all others, over half the output coming from them. The Granby smelter has treated 570,000 tons of ore this year, most of which came from the mines at Phoenix.

The Slocan district, with a record of close upon $5,000,000, paid out in dividends since silver was first discovered on Payne mountain, shows that in the year just ending its mines shipped 10,901 tons of silver-lead ore and 2,239 tons of zinc ore. During the year the Slocan Star paid a dividend of $50,000, and the Sunset distributed $12,000. The ore shipments are above those of 1903, chiefly on account of operations stimulated by the government bounty on lead.

A marked feature of the year has been the extension of the leasing system, and in nearly every case it has worked satisfactorily, both to mine owners and miners, though the zinc output, while it is twice that of the previous year, has not reached the sanguine expectations indulged in at one time. The whole situation of the zinc problem, according to the Montreal Star, is said to rest on the erection of magnetic plants for cleansing, and the separation, as far as possible, of other ores from the zinc, but that is not really the only alternative, though probably the most economical system. The Slocan Star heads the list of shippers with 2,678 tons to its credit, or over one-half of the total.

Mining in the Lardeau country indicates that 1904 was likewise a record or banner period. With the Silver Cup, the Nettie L., the reduction plant, and the Triune mine all proving successful, a big tunnel scheme advancing the Bad Shot, the Mochican, the Black Prince, and some fifty other properties all working, 1905 is big with promise for that district. Just as the year was about to close, the Triune opened up an eight-inch vein of $135 ore, while high-grade ore has been found in the Lucky Boy at a depth of 100 feet. This latter property is owned by a Chicago company, who have spent a large sum putting it in shape, and so far have netted $30,000 from $150 ore. In the Poplar Creek district of Lardeau there is great satisfaction over the settlement of litigation over the fabulously rich Lucky Jack group. The current year generally looks well for Canadian mining, and another year of steady solid progress must further impress capital of the potentialities of the country.

GRANBY OUTPUT.

The Production of Canada's Biggest Smelter 13,500,000 Pounds.

Spokane Spokesman Review.

Official statements of the metal produced by the Granby Consolidated Company in 1904 are at hand, and they indicate that Canada's greatest smelter yielded $2,781,637. The values are estimated, although the production of copper in pounds, and of gold and silver in ounces, is official.

"Nearly the entire output of the smelter came from the ores of the Granby mines," said Jay P. Graves, general manager. "No outside matte was converted and the volume of custom ore which was handled was small in 1904."

The Granby company's metal output was:

Copper, 13,431,226 lbs., at 12.8c.	$1,719,196
Gold, 47,968 ozs., at $20	950,360
Silver, 180,844 ozs., at 57c	103,081
Total	$2,781,637

BLOWS IN FURNACE.

Montreal & Boston Company Improves Boundary Falls Plant.

Phoenix, Feb. 7.—The second furnace at the Montreal & Boston Consolidated Boundary Falls smelter was blown in yesterday, and it is the expectation to keep both furnaces in blast. The ore all comes from the company's Brooklyn, Rawhide, Mountain Rose and Sunset mines, which are sending out twenty carloads daily.

SLOCAN.

The Slocan Standard asserts that the mines around Sandon and in the Slocan district lead in dividend-paying properties over all other mining districts in British Columbia. The total dividends paid to date amount to $3,762,797. The following are the mines and the amounts paid:

Mine—	Dividend.
Payne	$1,420,000
Slocan Star	575,000
Ivanhoe	400,000
Reco	287,500
Rambler-Cariboo	220,000
Last Chance	213,109
Whitewater	209,000
Ruth	125,000
Sunset	66,000
Noble Five	50,000
Goodenough	45,188
Washington	38,000
Monitor	27,000
Queen Bess (Queen Dominion)	25,000
Jackson	20,000
Surprise	20,000
Bosun	12,000
Antoine	10,000
Total	$3,762,797

EXPERTING GRANBY MINES.

W. L. Austin Examines Them—On Montreal & Boston.

Phoenix, Feb. 7.—William Lawrence Austin arrived from New York a few days ago, and, assisted by J. A. McCormick and C. G. Gunther, also of New York, is making a thorough examination of the Granby mines in this camp, both above and below ground. M. M. Johnson, of Salt Lake City, Utah, is doing the same thing at the Montreal & Boston mines in this camp, with the assistance of P. W. Livermore.

THE RECO DIVIDEND.

Total Distributed to Shareholders to Date, $307,500.

Sandon Standard.

The regular annual meeting of the directors of the Reco Mining & Milling Company, Limited Liability, was held in the office of the company here last Wednesday. The annual report showed a surplus on hand on December 31, 1904, of $39,701.56. At the close of the meeting the directors decided to declare a dividend of 2 cents per share, or $20.000 on all recorded stock, payable on February 20. This makes the total dividends paid by the Reco to date $307,500. The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: President and manager, J. M. Harris, Sandon; vice-president S. M. Wharton, Spokane; secretary-treasurer, Fred T. Kelly, Sandon; directors, J. G. Steele, Sandon, and G. C. Wharton, Mobile, Alabama.

The dividend announced does not come as a surprise; it has been expected for some time. During the past year the old rich No. 2 vein has almost shown up again as good as in the early days, when the Reco was the richest shipper. Much development was done at the mine in 1904, and over 1,000 tons of ore was sent to the smelter before the close of the year. Since then 255 tons have been shipped. Most of the tonnage came from No. 2 vein, which is still showing up well. About 45 men are at work stoping ore at the mine, and about eight tons are rawhided down daily. At the commencement of the shipping season last fall Manager Harris figured on shipping 1,200 tons before the close. Of this over half has been sent to the smelter, and the balance can easily be sent out before rawhiding breaks up.

The past year has been a profitable one for the Reco. The annual report shows the surplus for 1904 alone to be $31,225. The bounty furnished a few thousands, but the bulk came from the proceeds of the ore sales. The Reco, like many others, has been off the dividend list for some years. It has gone through the development stage and has proven its worth. While the veins recovered may not be as rich in values, they are more extensive in mineral. With silver hovering about 60, and likely to for some time to come, it bodes well for the prosperity of the Sandon camp. New life is about to be imparted to our mining industry. Another dividend or two will attract the wandering capitalists, and the Slocan receive the attention it deserves. The outlook for the Reco is bright; that of the camp brighter.

ELMORE OIL PROCESS.

**System