PACIFIC SECTION

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COKE SHORTAGE.

Many Phases of Fuel Problem in British Columbia—Oriental Labor Question.

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Of the complex questions which demand consideration in British Columbia, that of the coke supply for the smelters in the interior, is one of the most complicated. Seemingly it is a straight matter of an insufficiency of fuel, ostensibly caused by the export so far this year of between 26,000 and 27,000 tons of coke to smelters in Montana and Washington. But behind it all is counter-manoeuvring along with scarcity of labor and a car shortage.

Le Roi Treating Its Own Ores.

Several months ago, the ending of a conflict among the directors of the Le Roi Mining Company resulted in that company treating its ores at its own smelter at Northport, instead of at Trail. Northport is over the Washington boundary four or five miles and sixteen from Rossland. The C. P. R. controls the smelter at Trail, and the officials there have been endeavoring to create the impression that the scarcity of coke results in the export.

If successful, and an embargo put on, the effect would be that the smelter at Northport would have to be shut down, and once more the Le Roi ores would go to Trail. The smelter at Northport is part of the property of the Le Roi, and was purchased with it, and its abandonment would mean a big loss. Of the 26,000 or 27,000 tons of coke exported, half of that amount has gone to Northport, which is to all intents and purposes a Canadian institution.

Mr. A. J. McMillan, managing director of the Le Roi Company, who is at the coast this week, states that the causes of the scarcity of coke are unsettled labor conditions and shortage of cars. That the C. P. R. favors export, because of the haul, and perhaps to have figures for quotation, is shown, in an instance given.

Stories of Coke and Obstinacy.

In August a trainload of cars were put on the switch of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company at Michel to be loaded for Montana. The Coal Company had other orders and refused to load. They were told that the cars would remain there until the coke was supplied. There are no storage facilities at the mine for coke, and as soon as the platform got full, the company had perforce to load the cars or stop manufacture. These cars are taken via Lethbridge to Montana, giving a long haul over the C. P. R.

The unsettled labor conditions should be partly remedied by dull times in the lumbering mills and camps. This is indirectly the result of the financial stringency. In the prairie provinces, banks have shut down on paper, and the retail lumber dealer has refused the farmers' notes. Consequently no orders for lumber are being sent in, and mills are either curtailing output or shutting down. This applies particularly to East Kootenay. Men who are being thrown out of work will be available in the mining camps, where labor has been scarce and wages high.

Mr. Campbell Sweeny, manager of the Bank of Montreal in British Columbia, who has just returned from a trip of several months to Great Britain says practically the same as the gentleman quoted in the Monetary Times recently, that "the great financial minds of the world are in a state of timidity and anxious to keep their funds well in hand."

Views of Financial Situation.

They are apprehensive of something to happen, though what it is is not definite. Mr. Sweeny says he found a great scarcity of money in the Old Country and a general disinclination on the part of banks to go into investments, industrial or speculative. Its effect was shown in large corporations selling treasury notes at yearly currency interest. There was no shrinkage in values, except in stocks. The only trouble was that times had been so prosperous during the past few years that trade had expanded beyond the capabilities of the world to maintain, and while there was no disaster in sight it was felt that it was time to haul in a little.

Mr. John Davidson, manager of the British Empire Trust Company, of London, England, which has been instrumental in bringing a large amount of money into Canadian enterprises, and who is in the province looking into chances for the investment of British and European capital, also makes a statement on the question which is of such importance at the present time.

A great change has come over the British investor's view of Canadian securities, he says, and thousands who would not touch investments controlled in the United States are ready and willing to put their money into Canadian enterprises. While a few years ago, all Canadian securities were quoted from New York as an adjunct of the American list, Montreal and Toronto are to-day quoted as a separate Canadian centre.

Capital for Canada.

As a large number of British and other European investors have no confidence in the methods pursued by United States manipulators of capital, this prevented considerable sums of money coming into Canada, and the separation of the securities of the two countries in the European public mind had a most beneficial effect for this country.

At the meeting of the Vancouver Board of Trade on Tuesday evening last, a committee was appointed to draft an answer to the letter received from the editor of the Monetary Times, asking for a statement on the Oriental immigration question. Of late, the subject has been very widely discussed. Professional and other men from Eastern Canada, to whom the Japanese and the Hindu are novelties, are greatly struck with the industry with which they toil to oust the white man, and the cute little brown man, working eternally like the proverbial ant, and the spectacular turbaned Sikh, he, too, laboring with the object of sending all savings out of the country, are in many instances lauded as object lessons and classified as the best kind of immigrants for our Western country. The committee of the Board of Trade is a representative one, and their answer, which will include the manufacturers' point of view, will be of value.

The immense iron resources of Vancouver Island are attracting attention, not only of American manufacturers, but also those of Great Britain. Mention was made a short time ago of the presence on the coast of Mr. Shadforth, who is still here, and now Mr. A. Archer, a director of the Central Iron and Steel Corporation, of Birmingham, is also in the province to acquire information on the iron and coal supply.

Fishing and Shooting Classed as Resources.

A representative of Mr. Archer's firm was in British Columbia last year, and spent considerable time in Victoria, on a similar mission. His report was such as to cause the company to take definite action, and as a result of Mr Archer's visit a plant may be installed. He is proceeding direct to Victoria, and from there will pursue his investigations, afterward taking a trip through the province proper.

Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P. for York, England, will go back with a good account of British Columbia fishing. He has been here but a week or two, and spent last week end at Campbell River on Vancouver Island. While there he succeeded in securing four tyee salmon, which averaged thirty-five pounds. He used a Hardy rod and a lead spoon, and enjoyed the sport keenly.

Fishing and shooting might properly be classed among the resources of British Columbia, for they bring both money and business. Several large hunting parties after big game are now in the Cassiar district, while the number who come here after the smaller shooting and fishing is large.

Notes of Mining Industry.

The Hewitt Mining Company has been formed of altogether Eastern United States men to operate the Hewitt mine near Nelson. John Moody, of Moody's Magazine, is president; J. Ward Warner, New York, vice-president; E. L. Phillips, consulting engineer, and Olcott Payne, treasurer. These gentlemen with Junius Stone, of Delaware, form the directorate. The fact of the incorporation of the company continues to show the steady expansion of the mining industry.

Mr. Charles Taylor, who came here from Scotland, with the express purpose of hunting up a copper mine, is inspecting some promising properties near Kamloops.

This city, the nearest to the coast, is progressing, having both timber and mineral resources, as well as fine fruit-growing lands, in the immediate vicinity. Kamloops real estate men report many transfers.