

The Vancouver *Province* states that the Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Company is about to commence shipping coal to Vancouver and that the output for the present will be about 70 tons per day. It is asserted that "according to engineering authority there is one seam in which men are working that will furnish at least 1,500,000 tons, and the owners claim another seam will be brought to development of equal magnitude." The mine is about a mile from Nanaimo.

The dispute between the owners of Galt mine and their employees regarding the interpretation of the clause concerning the time of their work, has been settled. The board found in favour of the contention of the company, but Manager Naismith announced that offers made to the men previously still hold good. By the agreement the men will work eight hours at the place of work, but will be allowed pay for half-an-hour a day extra for the time taken going to and from work.

The wages dispute between the Hilerest Coal Company of Frank, Alberta, and its men, which was investigated by the board of conciliation appointed under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, has been amicably adjusted by F. H. Sherman, district president of the United Mine Workers of America, and J. R. McDonald, superintendent of the Hilerest mine, and an agreement has been signed on behalf of both parties. The members of the board of conciliation failed to agree upon a report that would be their unanimous presentation, so the dispute continued and a strike was threatened, but this has now been avoided and trouble of long standing removed.

The Tyee Copper Company is building a wharf 210 ft. long with fixed and movable ore bunkers, and installing unloading appliances to be electrically operated. These are to facilitate the transfer to the smelter storage bins of ore arriving by sea from northern British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska. An incline trestle runs from the wharf to ore bunkers near the sampling mill and blast furnace house, these having a storage capacity of 5,000 tons. A winding engine will haul ore, in trains of five cars each, about 1,200 ft. up to the top of the bunkers, the difference in elevation being about 80 ft. The improvements have been designed by Mr. W. J. Watson, manager of the smelter.

The members of the Miners' Union at Rossland, and of the Smelters' Union at Trail, have by more than the two-thirds vote requisite to authorize such change, voluntarily agreed to accept lower wages than have been paid at these places, respectively, since last July. This action has been taken by the unions to ward off a probable suspension of work had there not been a reduction in operating costs, it having been generally understood that the mining and smelting companies would not long continue opera-

tions under prior existing conditions of high prices of labour and materials, and lower market values for copper and silver. The action of the men in voluntarily meeting the situation in such a practical way, appears to warrant confidence that there will not be the general shut-down of the larger mines in the Kootenay district that had been feared.

Following the general description of the mining property of the Portland Canal Mining and Development Company, Limited, printed in the *Mining Record* for September last, a copy of the report on that property of a well-known mining engineer appears on pp. 437-9 of this issue. This will serve to indicate the conclusions of an acknowledged authority on such matters. Unfortunately, when the claims were visited quite recently, the surface outcrops of mineral were hidden by snow, and the development work done was not extensive; still it would seem that sufficient was seen by the visiting mining engineer to warrant him in concluding that the property is a promising one and meriting further development. This is encouraging for such a comparatively new and unproved mining field as the Bear River section of the Portland Canal district necessarily still is.

A handsome souvenir of the Ontario meeting of the members of the American Institute of Mining Engineers held in Toronto last July and their subsequent tour through the districts of Cobalt, Sudbury and Moose Mountain, has been published by the *Canadian Mining Journal*, of Toronto. The stated object had in view in preparing the volume was to commemorate an important and pleasant event. In addition to a summary of the proceedings of the three days' session in Toronto, an account of the tour through the districts above-mentioned is included, together with historical sketches of Cobalt and Sudbury. The volume is freely illustrated with half-tones of numerous well-known men and of places visited; also with maps and several beautifully-finished representations of specimens of ore depicted in natural colours. The souvenir is one worthy of the occasion, and the spirit and enterprise that prompted its publication merit hearty commendation.

Two sections of what has for years been known as the Geological Survey of Canada have been transferred to the "Mines Branch" of the new Dominion Department of Mines, the higher officials of which are: Hon. W. Templeman, minister of mines; Dr. A. P. Low, deputy minister of mines; Dr. Eugene Haanel, director of the mines branch; Mr. R. W. Brock, acting director of the geological branch. Several months ago what was known as the "Section of Mines" of the Geological Survey, which dealt chiefly with mineral statistics, was transferred to the new mines branch. Now the sections of chemistry and mineralogy have been similarly dealt with. The staffs of these several sections are not being maintained at their former strength, though, for Mr.