

EDITORIAL ECHOES

OVER 40 per cent. increase in mineral production in British Columbia in two years, is the highly gratifying report of Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines. Despite the big production of 1922, last year showed the big increase of 12 per cent. over that year. The 1923 figures are all the more significant considering the fact that they exceeded the inflated production of war years.

The actual monetary value of last year's production of minerals was \$39,699,758, as compared with \$35,158,843 in 1922, an increase of \$4,540,915. The production of 1921 had a value of \$28,066,641; so that in two years the industry has made an advance equal to \$11,633,117, or 41 per cent.

The increase production of gold is most encouraging, as was the jump in copper. In 1923 there were 54,000,000 of the latter metal produced, as against 32,359,000 pounds in 1922. The increase in zinc production is pointed to as most remarkable. During the war years this metal was produced at the rate of between forty and fifty million pounds per annum, which was considered most striking. However, in 1923 the production was 62,000,000 pounds, an increase of 5,000,000 pounds over 1922.

The Minister of Mines predicts that even greater strides will be made in mining during 1924. Confidence has been restored in British Columbia mining investments, the world has come to realize that in this province are mining properties of untold wealth. With the labor market stabilized and lumbering and agriculture on a sound basis, there is every reason to look forward to a record era of mining development and mineral production during the next few years.

WITH the time getting short before the appointment of the royal commission to investigate provincial party charges, unusual interest is being manifested by the man in the street. Premier Oliver has been commended and condemned for promising an investigation. Those public officials interested in promoting the development of British Columbia maintain that there is nothing to investigate in connection with the government's handling of the P. G. E. Ry., and therefore public money should not be spent on an enquiry. Premier Oliver has always contended this and took the stand that until definite charges were made money would not be wasted on a royal commission. However, he takes the stand that the public life of the province is directly affected and harmed through the spreading of charges of wrongdoing and it is in the public interest to clean the matter up. Undoubtedly the investigation will have a far-reaching effect. Third party adherents admit that if they are unable to substantiate their charges their party will die, while Mr. Bowser, opposition leader, recently declared at Sidney that if the charges made against him were true he should not be representing Vancouver in the Legislature nor leading the Conservative party.

MANY business men spend a lot of time killing time, waiting for the day to come when business will happen their way. Such men are blind to the eternal fact that business comes where it is invited and stays where it is best treated. No true business man loses any time waiting for business to happen; he gets busy advertising and makes it happen.

Happy is the country that can cut down its taxes.

THE announcement of Henry Ford that he would not run for President on any ticket against Calvin Coolidge is one of the most important developments of the Presidential situation. It means that the movement that has been in progress to induce him to enter the presidential race will terminate and that political prognosticators will be without a favorite topic on which to speculate. There is not the slightest question but that Henry Ford was favored for the Presidency by a large number of people throughout the country. This was manifested in many ways. Although he never expressed a desire for the nomination there developed a widespread sentiment in favor of his selection; and in some states it crystallized into organized action. Definite announcement of his determination not to be a candidate will give impetus to the candidacy of several other men who are aspirants for this honor. The sentiment which developed in favor of the nomination of Mr. Ford is a high compliment to him. It was based upon the conviction of many that the genius that he has shown in the development and management of his private industry would find great opportunity for service in the discharge of the duties of the head of the nation.

PESSIMISTS would have you believe that this world is reaching a stage of mediocre living—that life at its best now is a continual groping to exist.

But the year 1924 will unquestionably find the Canadian government, the Province of B. C., the City of Fernie and your family in improved conditions. Those who yell "loudest" are frequently responsible for their individual ills.

This world has its faults, every age had faults to combat—but, if it were not for these hills to climb, we would become a race of tagnant people.

Optimism in the universe is a stable way of expressing "everything will come out in the wash, even though it is a long time washing." Count every day of 1924 a forward step to maintaining the equilibrium of your family life. Make this community hum with your actual progress of betterment. It's up to you, what you make the year of 1924.

PROMOTE in every way the interest of your community for in that way you can best promote your own interests. And do not overlook the fact that the kind of a town you live in is the kind of a town you help make the town you live in.

WHY CANADA CAN'T HELP

If the United States still wonders why Canada can not render her aid in suppressing rum-running, she should find the clue to the answer in the current news story telling how a rum-runner was arrested in New York with \$42,000 in his pockets.

So long as rum-running is profitable enough to enable those who follow that calling to run around with \$42,000 in their pockets, all the laws of Canada and the United States are not going to make much impression on the traffic.

Certainly, strict law enforcement will make the rum-running business more risky. But no matter how risky a job is, men can always be found to do it providing they make enough money out of it. Bootlegging will not stop in the United States until the traffic is pinched at both ends. Rum-running will have to be made so risky that the market will not stand the added expense necessary to pay men to take the risk.

The immediate possibility of the United States liquor market falling to that low ebb seems extremely remote.—Vancouver Sun.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dicken left on December 28th for England.

Miss Mary Liphardt returned on Sunday to Calgary after spending the holidays with her parents.

According to the C. P. R. Telegraph bulletin today, Sir Lomer Gouin, Federal Minister of Justice, has resigned. No reason is stated.

The District Old Timers' Association will hold their annual meeting in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, January 8, at 8 o'clock. All members are requested to attend.

The regular monthly meeting of the Robert J. Black Chapter I. O. D. E. will be held at the home of Mrs. E. K. Stewart on Wednesday, January 9.

The Fernie Poultry & Pet Stock Association wishes to thank all the business people of Fernie for their kindness in helping them to make the recent poultry show a success.

Miss Edith Bonnell and her brother, Franklin, will leave in the morning for Toronto, where the former will attend Haverhill College and the latter will resume his studies at Toronto University.

The Banff Orchestra are slated to give a dance in Fernie on January 16, but as this night is the occasion of the big Moccasin Dance in the rink the chances are that there will be a change in their program.

Nomination Day for the Civic Elections will be January 14th, and if a poll is required it will be held on 17th. The municipal pot is frozen solid at present, but there is ample time for it to warm up in the next ten days.

There will be a reduction of 25 per cent. in the cost of your auto license for 1924, but your gasoline will be 3 cents a gallon more, so in the long run it will cost considerably more to operate your car in 1924 than in 1923.

J. Jerue returned on Monday from Chicago, where he spent the holiday season with his family. On Wednesday, Mr. Craig, his father-in-law, arrived to spend a few days in the city as his guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Potter, of Cranbrook, spent the week-end and New Year's Day in Fernie renewing old acquaintances. Bob was rustling orders for the new Telephone Directory.

The Women of Mooseheart Legion will hold their monthly whist drive and dance in the Lodge room on Tuesday, January 8. All members of the L. O. O. M. and their wives are cordially invited to attend. Cards at 7:30 sharp. Refreshments.

A meeting of the Fernie Poultry & Pet Stock Association will be held in the City Hall on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m. All members are requested to attend. Checks for the prize winners at the recent show will be given out. Please attend this meeting.

TO ABOLISH ALL BEER CLUBS ON FEBRUARY 1

VICTORIA, Dec. 28. — Beer clubs throughout the province will be abolished February 1. This will be the effect of regulations which are being drafted by the Liquor Control Board now, it is understood, at the Parliament Buildings.

How the new regulations will define clubs where liquor can be kept by members is not known yet. It is known, however, that all proprietary clubs will be prevented from keeping liquor.

Many returned soldiers' clubs will be prevented from keeping liquor under the new regulations, it was said at the attorney-general's department today. Some of these organizations are proprietary clubs, and will come under the same category as other proprietary clubs, which are to be wiped out, it was stated.

OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

New Year's service, Sunday, Jan. 6. At 11 a.m.—Subject: "The Foundations of Our Faith." Junior choir. Sunday School at 2:30. Promotion service. At 7:30 p.m.—Subject: "Moto for 1924." Senior choir. Everybody welcome.

USE "DIAMOND DYES"



Dye right! Don't risk your material. Each package of "Diamond Dyes" contains directions so simple that any woman can diamond-dye a new, rich color into old garments, draperies coverings, everything, whether wool, silk, linen, cotton or mixed goods. Buy "Diamond Dyes"—no other kind—then perfect results are guaranteed even if you have never dyed before. Druggists have "Diamond Dyes Color Card"—16 rich colors.

LIMBS AND BODY ALL SWOLLEN

"Fruit-a-tives" Relieved Both Dropsy and Sick Kidneys

The Wonder of Fruit Medicine

Those who know they have Kidney Trouble—who suffer with pain in the back—who are up frequently at night—will welcome the news that "Fruit-a-tives", the wonderful medicine made from fruit juices and tonics, will positively relieve Kidney and Bladder Troubles—as proven by this letter. "Our little girl had Kidney Trouble and Dropsy—her limbs and body were all swollen. We decided to try "Fruit-a-tives". In a short time, the swelling went down. Now she is the healthiest one of the family!"

WM. WARREN, Port Robinson, Ont. 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or from Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

The annual statement of The Royal Bank of Canada for the fiscal year ended November 30th, 1923, is one of the most striking banking documents presented to shareholders in recent years. In a period which has marked considerable contraction, owing to the after effects of post war deflation, the Bank has been able to make a noteworthy progress by an increase in total assets of close to \$59,000,000, to the large total of \$538,358,564.

Even more striking is the achievement in increasing general deposits to the extent of almost \$50,000,000, in a period when conditions were not generally favorable. These now amount to \$421,334,265, as compared with \$372,003,961 in the preceding year.

The proportion of liquid assets are about 50% of the total liabilities to the public. They amount to \$233,125,474, and indicate a position of exceptional strength. Included in them are cash resources of \$81,604,539, equal to 28% of public liabilities. The corresponding figures in the previous year were \$216,048,331 in liquid assets and \$63,935,920 cash resources. Under the amended method of denoting cash resources this year's deposit in the Central Gold Reserves, amounting to \$11,500,000, is included, whereas a year ago the gold deposit of \$8,000,000 was given among the general list of liquid assets.

In addition to this the general character of the Bank's holdings of higher grade securities has been greatly strengthened, with a view to fortifying its already strong position. Thus, Dominion and Provincial Government securities have been increased from \$27,983,715 to \$28,783,050 and Canadian Municipal securities and British, Foreign and Colonial securities, other than Canadian have risen from \$7,901,927 to \$15,900,363, while Railway and Other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks have decreased from \$13,462,068 to \$10,436,951.

Call and short loans on bonds, debentures, stocks and other securities have shown a decrease of upwards of \$2,000,000, from \$48,510,120 to \$46,372,574, there being a slight increase in such loans in Canada and a decrease elsewhere. The Bank has thus effected a distinct gain in the quality of its investments.

The measure of the Bank's general assistance to trade and commerce is shown in its current loans, which have risen in the year from \$242,937,476 to \$264,722,967, an increase of close to \$22,000,000.

It is worthy of note that the profits of the year's operations were maintained at a level showing very little change from the preceding year, this showing having been effected in a period when general conditions were not so favorable than they had been in previous years. The profits amounted to \$3,909,316, as against \$3,958,469 for the preceding year. Together with

Qualification of Trustees In Municipal School Districts

The qualification of candidates for election as trustees for any municipal school district shall, mutatis mutandis, be the like qualifications as are prescribed by law for persons eligible for election as Aldermen or Councillors of the municipality comprised in the school district, except that every candidate shall be actually resident in the school district. The wife or the husband of every person who is qualified to become a candidate for election as a trustee under the foregoing provisions of this section shall, if she or he is of the full age of twenty-one years and is actually resident in the school district, be qualified also to become a candidate for election as a trustee for the school district.

Note—Above is to be substituted for the Qualifications for School Trustees stated in advertisement of Civic Election on Page 2 of this issue.

Night Shows
Start at 7:30
One Show
Saturday
Nights 7 p.m.
Two Shows



Saturday
Matinee
at 2:30

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JAN. 4 & 5

Dorothy Dalton, Theodore Kosloff and Tully Marshall

"THE LAW OF THE LAWLESS"

The story of a daring gypsy vagabond who buys his wife at the auction block and wins her heart by his amazing love-making. Dorothy Dalton in the kind of role she plays best.

Charles Hutchinson and Lucy Fox in "Speed"

Comedy

MONDAY & TUESDAY, JAN. 7 & 8

HERBERT RAWLINSON and EILEEN PERCY

"THE PRISONER"

From the novel "Castle Craneyrow" by George Barr McCutcheon. A marvellous story, lavish sets, an exquisite cast, make "The Prisoner" a picture treat supreme! Don't deny yourself this one!

Two Reel Western with Roy Stewart

Two Reel Comedy—"Aint Love Grand"

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JAN. 9 & 10

Owen Moore, Sylvia Breamer, Tully Marshall and Virginia Brown Faire

"THUNDERGATE"

An American youth masquerades as Lord of Thundergate. Roaming through the harem of the Chinese Palace he finds a little white girl, kidnapped and sold as a slave bride. Drama, Thrills, Intrigue, and the most glorious romance.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TWO SHOWS AT 7 and 9

THURSDAY NIGHT ONE SHOW ONLY AT 7:30

ADMISSION—ADULTS 50c—CHILDREN 25c

ISIS THEATRE Saturday, Jan. 5

CLAIRE ADAMS

"GOLDEN DREAMS"

By Zane Grey

WILLIAM DUNCAN and EDITH JOHNSON in "THE STEEL TRAIL"

Comedy

the balance from the previous year, the total available for distribution was \$4,916,830, as compared with \$4,863,514 in 1922 and after dividends, appropriations and taxes, there was carried forward \$1,085,830, as against \$1,007,514 last year.

END STOMACH TROUBLE. GASES OR DYSPEPSIA

"Pape's Diapepsin" makes sick, sour, gassy stomachs surely feel fine in five minutes.

If what you just ate is souring on your stomach or lies like a lump of lead, or you belch gas and eructate sour, undigested food, or have a feeling of dizziness, heartburn, fullness, nausea, bad taste in mouth and stomach-headache, you can get relief in five minutes by neutralizing acidity. Put an end to such stomach distress now by getting a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store. You realize in five minutes how needless it is to suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia or any stomach disorder caused by food fermentation due to excessive acid in stomach.

RELIABLE JEWELRY

A. C. LIPHARDT

A. McLEAN

General Contractor and Builder

See Him Before Building.

PRICES MODERATE

122 Thompson St. Fernie, B.C.

SATURDAY SPECIALS

At Bill's Place — Phone 234

CHOICE BABY BEEF

PORK : VEAL : LAMB : MUTTON

Fresh Killed

TURKEYS : CHICKENS : DUCKS : GEESE

PORK SAUSAGES

BUTTER : EGGS : LARD

BILL'S PLACE

PHONE 234

120 Howland Ave.

E. Fia — Proprietor

CHOICE CUTS

Will be Delivered, if ordered by phone during this cold snap, just the same as if you were here to choose them.

CALL 52

Take Advantage This Week of Our SATURDAY SPECIALS

LOWDEN'S MEAT MARKET

Phone 52