

with the most modern improved coal-handling appliances obtainable. Immediately prior to the time the fire took place the Coal creek mines were producing about 1,800 tons of coal per diem. This large supply was suddenly and without any warning cut off, yet such is the producing capacity of the other collieries in the Crow's Nest Pass district owned by the company that by the end of March there were no arrears of orders, all engagements having been promptly met and not a single order for either coal or coke lost. In fact, a more serious drain upon the company's resources could have been met without difficulty. Such a position is eminently satisfactory, ensuring, as it does, an uninterrupted maintenance of the supply of coal and coke to the mining and smelting districts that obtain their fuel from this company.

Mining engineers are not always given credit for good work done by members of their profession. Occasionally, though, a well-merited tribute of appreciation of their valuable services is published, as witness the following from a recent number of the *Mining and Scientific Press*: "Twenty years ago nearly all underground transportation was done by men who pushed single cars loaded with ore to the stations. Here and there was found a mine where a locomotive of some sort had been introduced to replace the trammer, and the cars were hauled from some central point in trains. Now nearly all the large mines have either mechanical, electric or compressed air haulage plants in successful operation. All of these improvements are the direct result of the efforts and demands of the mining engineers and not of the labouring miners. These and many other mechanical devices, as well as improvements in the system of mining, have lowered the cost of mining step by step, until we see to-day mines successfully and profitably operated which would have fallen far short of it even a decade ago. The outcome is that work is afforded thousands of miners who otherwise could not be employed."

In a letter to the *Atlin Claim*, Dr. H. E. Young, M.P.P. for Atlin district, writes as follows, for the information of his constituents: "As regards hydraulic leases, the government intends that all statutory requirements shall be carried out, and I am happy to say that conditions in the future will be much more equitable than heretofore. The government has given me every assurance that the cause of complaint shall be removed as fast as possible, and further, the gold commissioner has been instructed to give two weeks' public notice of all cancellations.

"People holding leases should be forced to live up to the requirements in the same way that placer miners are compelled to do. At the same time, I wish to say to those who have invested money and made an effort to comply with the law, that it is not the intention of the government to place any bar in the way of development of the district. But it is the intention of the government to throw open all land which has been illegally held and to give two weeks' notice of such

intention, so that all may have an equal chance of re-staking."

The chairman, at the annual meeting of the Bank of British North America, held in London, England, last month, in the course of his address to stockholders, said, "The mining industries of British Columbia have shown considerable activity during 1904, and a rough estimate compiled by the Provincial Government values the mineral output at \$19,775,000. This gives an increase of more than \$2,000,000 over the production of 1902 and 1903, but just falls short of 1901, when the output reached \$20,000,000. This increased production has not, however, been accompanied by any better results for the shareholders in either the Canadian companies or those established in the United Kingdom, and in all alike, profits, where existing at all, have been meagre in the extreme. Efforts are now being made by influential persons in Canada and the United Kingdom, representing some of the principal companies in the Rossland camp, to bring about an amalgamation of interests, and should these efforts meet with success, there should be brighter days ere long. In the Yukon, on the other hand, the output of gold showed further diminution, barely reaching \$10,000,000 in 1904, compared with \$11,000,000 in the preceding year. The population of Dawson is also considerably less than it was a year ago; but this is by no means surprising, for in placer mining camps, as the auriferous ground is worked out, the miners move on to more attractive fields of labour; and so it has been in this case, the exodus to the gold fields of Tanana and Fairbanks having been on a large scale. Apart from fresh discoveries that may be made, either of alluvial or quartz, the future of the camp appears to depend chiefly upon an adequate water supply, and efforts are being made towards the attainment of this object. Whatever may be the output for the future, it is interesting to look back on the results of the camp, since it first came prominently into notice seven years ago, for during this period the value of gold recovered has certainly not been less than \$100,000,000. These figures must surely entitle it to rank amongst the wealthiest placer mining camps in the world."

It is the custom of the *Mining and Scientific Press* to publish mining news from this Province under the heading of "British Columbia," and from other parts of the Dominion under that of "Canada." Occasionally an item from British Columbia is placed under the latter head, but why not let all be so dealt with? It is not clear to the uninitiated why Alberta and Yukon Territory should be shown as in Canada and British Columbia be differently treated. We appreciate the prominence given to this province in that influential mining journal, but would like to see it made plain to uninformed foreign readers that British Columbia is in Canada. This suggestion has been prompted by seeing addresses on communications from other countries with the words "British Columbia, U. S. A."