

## TABER.

The mines round Taber are working very short time, owing to dullness in the coal trade. This has been an exceedingly mild winter, and as the Taber coal is only used for domestic purposes, the demand has not come up to expectations.

The following advertisement appeared in a recent issue of the *Fernie Ledger*:—

## "WANTED."

"Employment for 938 miners, mine laborers, drivers, timbermen, hoistmen and engineers, now idle, warranted to be first-class wage slaves.

"Apply F. H. Sherman, Pres. U. M. W. of A., Box 145, Taber, Alta."

F. H. Sherman, president of District 18, United Mineworkers of America, has been in the Edmonton district during the past week settling some labor troubles at the mines. He has now gone to Indianapolis to attend the general convention of the United Mineworkers of America which is being held. The chief item of interest at the convention is the election of a new president to succeed John Mitchell, who has been in poor health for some time past.

It is generally understood that T. H. Lewis will be the member selected to fill the office of president on the retirement of John Mitchell.

## EDMONTON.

As a result of a conference between representatives of the miners and mine owners of the Edmonton district a new wage scale has been agreed upon. The new scale was drawn up after a lengthy conference between T. B. Smith, representing the mine owners, and F. H. Sherman, of Taber, president of Dist. 18 U. M. W. of A. Dr. McNabb, of Lethbridge, representing the Lethbridge district, E. A. James, of Edmonton, local organizer of the northern district, and Chas. Richardson, president of the local union, all of whom represented the miners.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

## THE KOOTENAYS.

Work at the Granby mines and smelter in the Boundary district is now well under way. At the first of the year but two of the entire battery of eight furnaces at the smelter were operating, and only 250 of the regular force of about 550 men had been put to work at the mines. The output has been gradually increased, and more men put back to work until at this writing nearly 450 men are working at the mines and six of the big furnaces are treating ore. During the week ended January 11th the Granby shipped 12,887 tons of ore and treated at the smelter 15,695 tons. These figures should be much higher for the present week, as the output is being steadily increased. It is the intention of the management to increase the force until the smelter is running at its full capacity of 3,500 tons of ore per day, which will of course necessitate the mines turning out the greater part of this. If it is possible to keep this output up well into the middle of the summer and the affairs of the company look propitious, they will increase the capacity of the smelting plant to a treating capacity of 4,500 tons per day; at least, that is the intention now. The Granby Company's freight bill with the C. P. R. and G. N. R. when running at full capacity, amounts to about \$30,000 per month. The British Columbia Copper Company pays the C. P. R. about \$10,000 per month.

The British Columbia Copper, Snowshoe or Dominion Copper Company's mines have not made a move to resume work as yet, but it is expected that the coming month will see some developments at those properties. The Dominion Copper Company will hold their annual meeting at Phoenix on the 27th inst., when it is expected that something definite will be done.

With copper selling at its present low price, the Boundary mining companies will have to exercise great economy and good management if the shareholders are to get any dividends. During their last fiscal year it cost the Granby Company 10.13 cents to mine, smelt, refine and sell its copper. British Columbia Copper Company figures ran 12 cents to 12 1-2 cents as cost of mining, smelting, refining and selling its copper product. Dominion Copper Company produced copper at around 10 1-2 cents per pound, f.o.b. its smelter, but during the year ended July 31st last, owing to many drawbacks, it cost them approximately 14 cents.

The labor situation in the Boundary is in a fairly settled condition. There are a number of the men going around with a chip on their shoulder and grumbling at anything and everything, but the majority are not paying much attention to them and are glad to be back at work and doing their little share to tide matters over the present situation by working at a slightly lowered wage. There are two or three men for every position though, having hurried from all points of the compass when they heard that work was to be started up in the Boundary.

The Rossland mines are working a good force of men and good and busy. The Centre Star is shipping 3,700 to 3,800 tons of ore per week, Le Roi from 1,700 to 2,000 tons, Le Roi 2, Limited, about 600 tons.

The Le Roi 2, Limited, Company intends to mine and ship on a larger scale next summer. Considerable development work has been done lately looking towards this, and the showings seem to warrant the expenditure which will be necessary. The Le Roi 2 has always been a money-maker and dividend-payer, and interested people here will be pleased to see that they are planning for operation on a greater scale.

The Rossland Board of Trade is taking a keen interest in the extension of the lead bounty for another five years, and the raising of the limit when the bounty should be paid from \$16 to \$18. It is noted that the two and a half millions appropriated by the Government for the lead bounty, at the rate of \$50,000 per year, only \$616,976.02 has been paid to the lead producers. Still, there is no doubt that this bounty has been a wonderful stimulus to the silver-lead mines. This can be easily seen by the increased activity among the smaller silver-lead producers in the Slocan and East Kootenay during the period of its existence. Many of these lesser properties have been worked, developed and have made small shipments that would probably have lain idle had it not been for the bounty.

Residents of this locality take more or less pride from the fact that we are in a position to furnish the new Canadian mint with fine silver and gold for coinage purposes. The Consolidated smelter and refinery at Trail is one of the most up-to-date and complete plants in the country and is in a position to furnish more fine gold and silver than the mint can at present use. The material in the new coins will therefore be mined, smelted, refined and coined in Canada.

Many holders of stock in the East will be pleased to learn that they have made a valuable strike in the shaft at the 500 foot level of the Stemwinder mine. This makes the proposition look a whole lot better. Plans for energetic development work in the future are now being laid out.

The Diamond Vale Coal Company in Nicola valley have finally struck a six foot seam of coal on their property. As near as can be ascertained from the workings in the Valley Coal & Coke Company a very rich seam of fine coal exists 120 feet below the one struck. It is the intention of the Diamond Vale people to sink to this rich seam.

It is expected that the plant of the Nelson Electric Smelting Company for the handling of zinc ore will be in operation in the latter part of March or early in April. The Hewitt Mining Company in the Slocan are working actively and have drawn up plans