

gaged on Spruce Creek. With reference to the Engineer Mine, one of the best known and possibly the richest lode property of the Province, Mr. Mobley explains that owing to the drowning of its owner, Capt. Alexander, and his wife, when the Steamer Princess Sophia was wrecked last year, and to the subsequent death of his heir at Pittsburg, no work has been done this year.

A despatch from Fernie states that control of one of British Columbia's richest mines has changed hands for a consideration said to run into the millions, is the report circulated here through New York sources which say that Roland Wood and A. B. Trites of this city and W. R. Wilson of the Crow's Nest Coal company, owners of the Premier mine, situated near Stewart, B. C., have disposed of a majority interest in the Premier to the American Smelting company.

Both Wood and Trites are now in New York where the deal is said to have been put through.

The Premier mine is situated in the Salmon River district at the head of Portland Canal, and was taken over about a year or more ago by the British Columbia owners who bonded the mine and paid for it out of smelter runs from rich ore which was taken from the property. The values run highest in silver, some of it attaining tremendous values.

The Privy Council has sustained R. T. Ward in the famous Ward vs. Hopp case that has been in the courts since 1913.

The suit arose out of the purchase of the Bullion mine in the Cariboo. This mine, situated near Quesnel Forks, is a hydraulic proposition of 1200 acres. It was first taken up in 1895 by a syndicate of C. P. R. officials, including Sir William Van Horne, Baron Shaughnessy, Messrs. W. D. Matthews and E. B. Osler. They operated until 1906, spending a total of \$3,500,000, and producing \$1,500,000 to that time. By then they had extensive equipment on the property.

In 1906 the mine was sold to the Guggenheims who incorporated it under the name of the Cariboo Gold Mining Company. They spent another \$500,000 in equipment and in constructing a canal for water supply. They, however, never worked the property. In 1913 it was sold to R. T. Ward of California, and ten days later was claimed by John Hopp of Barkerville on the technical ground that it had

been abandoned as a miner's license had not been renewed. The decision of the Privy Council finally disposes of this claim. Argument by Mr. Ward's counsel was dispensed with at the hearings.

The Dolly Varden mine, under the management of Major Davis, is now shipping two trains of ore daily to tide water, says the Portland Canal News. The mine has developed in richness far beyond what the estimates, based on diamond drilling some years ago, intimated when the property was under the management of R. B. McGinnis.

The manager of the railroad and shipping facilities, Ted Taylor, states that the equipment of the road will be immediately increased to handle the tonnage of other properties. The present equipment is handling 100 tons per eight-hour shift.

The North Star has got in horses and will start packing high-grade silver ore to the Dolly Varden train in sacks. They expect to realize \$30,000 from their shipments if they can get transportation. The property is looking very good as the tunnel is all in ore, showing great quantities of native and ruby silver.

A very rich strike was made on the Muskateer property, recently bonded to Mr. Meenach, of Seattle. The open cut gave assay values of \$200 gold and 135 ozs. silver. The vein is one of the largest in the district.

The Tiger property has been sold to Messrs. Price and Crawford, of New York for \$125,000.

A large force of men have started operations on the Last Chance group, recently bonded to New York people.

The Homesteak property, bonded by Mr. Somerville, of Seattle, looks very good. Several thousand dollars will be expended on it next month. The largest gold strike in the camp was made last week on the adjoining property. Free gold can be seen in all the ledge matter when shots are fired in the face. Assays of the ore have not been received.

Mr. Hancock, of the United Metals, has two pack trains of twelve horses, each packing out ore that will average 200 ozs. of silver, \$13 gold and forty-five per cent. lead. A shipment to the smelter will be made about the end of the month.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1918

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$75,436,103; Lode Gold, \$97,121,786; Silver, \$46,839,631; Lead, \$42,294,251; Copper, \$145,741,060; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$13,278,058; Coal and Coke, \$187,147,652; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$28,843,272; Miscellaneous Minerals, \$651,759; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1918 show an

Aggregate Value of \$637,353,581

Production for Year Ending December, 1918, \$41,782,474

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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VICTORIA, British Columbia.