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Hedley, Feb. 2.—Owner, John Mairhoffer; occupant, Mrs. Simpson; wood dwelling; value of building \$1,200, insurance on same \$800. Total loss, \$1,200. Cause, adjoining. Mount Royal.

Nelson, Feb. 14.—408 Victoria St.; owner and occupant, S. Barton; frame dwelling; value of building \$4,000, insurance on same \$3,000; value of contents \$2,000, insurance on same \$2,000. Total loss \$500. Cause, sparks from range. London Assurance, California.

Spallumcheen, Feb. 4.—S. W. ¼ Sec. 4, Tp. 35; owner and occupant, S. Fruno; wood dwelling; value of building \$1,000, value of contents \$1,000; no insurance. Total loss, \$2,000. Cause, overheated stove.

### SEVERE LOSS IN POPULATION BY PROVINCE.

Mr. F. S. DeGrey, acting secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, estimates the loss of population since the outbreak of war at nearly 100,000. The cessation of railway work is given as the cause of the exodus of 20,000 people; general periodic depression drove out 50,000, while the war took the remainder of a total of 99,429.

Twenty-two thousand B. C. soldiers had gone to the front since the last of the year. British army reservists had numbered 500, other reservists 200; aliens and their families who have left the country, 2,500; families of soldiers who went to Europe with or after their husbands, 1,800; munition workers, 1,000, and interned aliens, 929.

### ZINC SHIPMENTS FOR FEBRUARY.

Shipments of zinc concentrates from Kootenay-Boundary during the month of February, 1916, show an increase of 1,245 tons over the tonnage shipped during the same period in 1915. The total tonnage sent out to various refineries during February, 1915, amounted to 623 tons, or about one-third of the tonnage shipped during February, 1916, which totaled 1,877 tons.

Two large shipments appear in the lists for last month, one being from the Slocan Star, at Sandon, amounting to 670 tons, and the other from the Sullivan, at Kimberley, amounting to 645 tons, shipped to the new zinc reduction plant recently put into operation in connection with the Consolidated Mining Company's smelter at Trail. The list of properties shipping zinc concentrates during February of 1915 and last month, follows:

	1915	1916
Rambler-Cariboo .....	84	.....
Whitewater .....	86	.....
Surprise .....	284	.....
Utica .....	43	40
Lucky Jim .....	.....	312
Slocan Star .....	.....	670
Standard .....	.....	120
Hewitt .....	126	90
Sullivan .....	.....	645
Total .....	623	1877

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