

men now working and many strikes reported, some of which are authentic. So far it has been almost impossible to do systematic work as it required half the labour of the gang to provide the camp with necessaries.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Exhibits of minerals from Kootenay, Boundary, Kamloops, and Nicola Valley districts have been made during recent months at several annual fairs. The largest display was at the Interstate Fair held at Spokane, Washington, where the display of specimens of minerals from British Columbia was particularly large and attractive. It has been claimed that recent displays were the best ever made of collections of minerals from this province, but it is probable those making this claim lost sight of the really large and thoroughly representative collection from British Columbia included in the unusually excellent exhibit of Canadian minerals made at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition held at Seattle, Washington, last year. In quantity, variety, and quality, the splendid exhibit got together last year by Mr. R. L. Broadbent, of the Geological Survey branch of the Dominion Department of Mines, without doubt excelled any other collection of mineral specimens from British Columbia yet made. But having conceded this, as a simple matter of fact, it may be said that good exhibits were made this year at Nelson and Spokane, and in smaller measure at Vancouver. There was practically no competition at the last-mentioned place, but at the Spokane fair, held recently, conditions were the opposite. From a published account of the latter it has been ascertained that the British Columbia display included mineral specimens from 148 mines; that from Idaho, 110 mines; from Montana, 38 mines; from Alberta, 11 mines; from Oregon, one mine; and from various other sources, 29 exhibits. The general excellence of the British Columbia exhibits is indicated by the number of awards made to them. Of seven silver cups offered for competition, four were won by British Columbia, while the exhibits from this province were awarded twelve of the 22 silver medals offered. Most of these awards were made to exhibits from West Kootenay, ores from which constituted by far the greater part of the British Columbia collection. The cup for the best mineral display at the fair was won by British Columbia; other cups were won as follows: By Ainsworth, for silver and lead ores; by the Lucky Jim mine, Slocan, for zinc ores; and by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, for coal. Among the exhibits awarded silver medals was one of nickel-cobalt ore from East Kootenay, and one of gypsum from Nicola Valley. Medals were also won by the following British Columbia mines: Nugget, Sheep Creek; Lucky Boy and Arlington, Erie, Eureka, Eagle Creek (all in Nelson mining division); Iron Mask, Kamloops; Standard, Silvertown camp, Slocan; Highland, Ainsworth; Centre Star-War Eagle group, Rossland; Granby, Boundary; and Copper Chief, Trout Lake. Montana, Idaho, and Washington States each won a silver cup, while silver medals fell to those states in the following proportions: Montana, one; Idaho, five; Washington, four (including one to the First Thought mine, at Orient, which ships ore to the smelteries at Trail and Grand Forks, both in British Columbia).

Ymir.—There is now more activity in this part of Nelson mining division than at any previous time for years. Among the active mines are the Yankee Girl, which has shipped much ore during the last two years, Wilcox, Dundee, and several others. It has been reported that the old Ymir mine, formerly a dividend payer, is to be re-opened, and development at lower levels than those already worked to be undertaken.

Rossland.—Ore production is being well maintained at the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company's Centre Star-War Eagle group of mines, and in less quantity at those of Le Roi No. 2, Limited. Among the smaller properties an encouraging feature is the recent finding of a fine shoot of ore of good value in the Blue Bird mine.

Slocan.—The mines that were deprived of railway transportation facilities last summer by the burning of many trestles and bridges of the Kaslo & Slocan Railway, have not yet resumed ore production on a normal scale, but some are making provision for the shipment of ore soon. Those chiefly affected are the Whitewater group, Lucky Jim, and Rambler-Cariboo. As the Whitewater mines shipped little crude ore, the great bulk of their product being concentrates, they must await the building of a concentrating mill, to replace that destroyed by fire in July, before they will again be in a position to make shipments. Mines situated near Sandon, which are provided with an outlet for their products over the Nakusp & Slocan Railway, are being operated as usual. In the Slocan Lake part of the district there is little change to note.

Lardeau.—There is an improved outlook for more development and production in this district, which has been neglected of late years to a considerable extent. It has been announced that the Ferguson Mines, Limited, an English company which has for years worked the Silver Cup and Sunshine mines with little intermission, sending out about 100 tons of high-grade silver-lead ore monthly, will again also work its Nettie L. mine, situated near Ferguson. Preparations are being made for a resumption of ore production at the Beatrice mine, near Camborne, Lardeau mining division; while reports are to the effect that several other properties in Lardeau division, and still others in Trout Lake division, will also be worked during the ensuing winter.

Similkameen.—In addition to the good progress made in Hedley camp, where is situated the Hedley Gold Mining Company's dividend-paying Nickel Plate mine, there is gratifying advancement in connection with the development of the coal resources of the Similkameen. The output of coal from the Princeton colliery is being steadily increased. At Granite Creek, the Columbia Coal & Coke Company is putting in a power plant and making other provision for the development of the several coal seams on its property. The Osoyoos Coal Company is prospecting its coal measures and opening coal reported to be of good quality and in considerable quantity.

Nicola.—Coal mining is becoming a more and more important industry in Nicola Valley as time passes. The Nicola Valley Coal & Coke Company is the only comparatively large producer of coal at present operating in the district, but development of other properties than that of this company is being steadily advanced. Railway construction is being proceeded with, the chief object in view being the connection, by as direct a route as shall be found practicable, of this fuel-producing locality with the Boundary mining camps which are looked to as an eventual market for much coal and coke from Nicola Valley. The metalliferous mineral resources of the country about Nicola have not yet been largely developed, but it is believed copper mining and smelting will yet be added to the industries of the district.

Coast.—While ore production continues small in this district, there is much work being done, so that it is reasonable to look for a much enlarged output within a year or two. At the Britannia mine, on Howe Sound, exploration of the big ore bodies is being continued, though only a restricted production of ore is being made while the price of copper remains low. At Green Lake, in about 30 miles from the head of Howe Sound, some large copper showings are being exploited. On Vancouver Island mining is chiefly for coal, and a greatly enlarged output of this mineral is planned for the early future. Texada Island has two valuable mines in the Marble Bay and Cornell, both of which have been producing fairly large tonnage of copper-gold ore of good average value. Lasqueti and Valdes Islands continue to have attention, development being in progress on both. Farther north, on Princess Royal Island, a locality in which some Maritime Provinces people were interested from five to ten years ago, a syndicate, including several Vancouver city men, is about to reopen a mining property. Other Coast dis-