

closed some years ago in order that it might be preserved in its natural state as a national park. It is claimed by the present government that the location and the exploitation of its mineral cannot interfere, at any rate to any material extent, with its value as a park and consequently permission now is given to miners to record claims within its limits and to proceed with the work of their development and the taking out of ore.

Authority was also given by the Legislature to the government to grant further aid by way of guaranteeing the bonds of the French Complex Ore Reduction Company to an extent not to exceed \$25,000. This company's plant at Fairview, B. C., near Nelson, B. C., is specially designed to handle the complex ores of the provincial interior at a minimum of cost with a maximum return and it will now be able to operate. It has had to close down because of lack of funds and the action thus taken to enable the plant to get on its feet will be welcomed by the mine operators of the Boundary district of the province.

In order to facilitate the important work of obtaining more accurate knowledge of British Columbia's iron ore resources the Minister of Mines also obtained an amendment to that section of the Mineral Survey and Development Act, 1917, dealing with the drilling of mining properties. This Act gives the Minister power in diamond drilling a claim, or prospect, to place a charge against such property of the cost of the work, together with a bonus equal to the total amount of the cost and interest at six per cent. per annum, computed annually.

The amendment sets out that "in the case of iron mines, that is to say mines in which the iron recoverable from the ore is such that they are classed as iron mines by a resident engineer, no bonus shall be charged and the amount payable to the Minister of Mines shall be the cost of the drilling or boring, with interest as aforesaid."

There is an area on Vancouver Island, estimated as being approximately 3,296 square miles in size, the whole of the Island comprising only about 17,000 square miles, which is termed the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Belt and in respect of the minerals of which there are applied both Company and Provincial regulations. This dual control has so complicated titles to claims within the section that

the mining development within its limits has been seriously hampered.

With a view to curing his undesirable position, the Minister of Mines, at the recent session, asked for and obtained authority to enter into negotiations with the Company looking to the establishment of a single authority in regard to the minerals of the E. & N. Belt and that authority to lie in the hands of the Province. It may be said, by way of explanation, that these lands were given the original builders of the railroad as a bonus for their enterprise.

The policy of the British Columbia Government in respect of the taxation of mining properties was a matter which, during the session just concluded, caused considerable concern among operators and was the subject of not a few discussions between their representatives and the Minister of Finance. The result, however, as contained in the Taxation Amendment Act is believed to be generally satisfactory, it being conceded by the mining men that, owing to the absolute need of greater revenue to meet the Province's obligations, increased taxation is essential. The tax is to be ten per cent. of the gross profits, or two per cent. royalty on the ore mined, the choice of the impost applied depending on which will produce the greater return.

There, however, are several important allowances provided for. One of these is for salaries paid "directors, officers, partners, and persons who reside within the province," and thus are liable to assessment under the Act for income tax. Another is for depreciation of plant "used in the production of the income" but which must not exceed "for any one year fifteen per centum of the actual and original cost" of the plant. A third is for outlay involved in the development of a mine "having regard to the amount of ore actually mined and shipped from which the income is derived.

G. E. Laird and sons have bonded the Republic group of claims between Springer and Twelve-Mile creeks, near Slocan City. The vendors were McGuire, Tipping and Graham. It is the intention of the bonders to arrange for commencement of development work during the coming month. Mr. Laird is also interested in the Yakima property near the Eureka.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1916

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$74,620,103; Lode Gold, \$91,350,784; Silver, \$41,358,012; Lead, \$36,415,124; Copper, \$114,559,364; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$7,212,759; Coal and Coke, \$165,829,315; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$26,697,835; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1916 show an

Aggregate Value of \$558,560,715

Production for Year Ending December, 1916, \$42,290,462

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.

Full information, together with mining Reports and Maps, may be obtained gratis by addressing—

THE HON. THE MINISTER OF MINES
VICTORIA, British Columbia.