

wards identified as mineral pitch or bitumen, and called albertite. This mineral proved on investigation to be of great value and was mined for nearly thirty years at great profit. The records of production were destroyed, but it was known that in each of the years 1865 and 1866 the output of albertite was 20,500 tons, while the total from 1863 to 1874 amounted to 154,800 tons, and during the entire period of working it was probably not far from 230,000 tons. The price ranged from \$15 to \$20 per ton.

"Albertite is a solid bitumen representing the residuum of petroliferous seepages. It occurs in veins in the Albert shales at several points in Albert and Westmorland counties. While in itself an indication of petroleum in past times rather than at present, it is generally associated with petroliferous shales, and in the Albert mine liquid petroleum was actually collected in buckets from seepages from sandy beds included in the shales associated with the albertite. Albertite is not a coal, notwithstanding the opinions of certain interested parties or legal decisions, but is a petroliferous residuum and therefore to be classed among the indications of oil, at least to the extent indicated above."

BRIDGE RIVER LILLOOET DISTRICT.

A party of geologists, from the Federal Government, in charge of Capt. W. S. McCann, who has seen service at the front, is making a survey of the geological formation along the Bridge River between Rexamount and Gull Lake in the Lillooet District.

This is the completion of the work, left unfinished by Mr. C. W. Drysdale, who was drowned in 1917. At the time of the drowning Mr. Drysdale's entire manuscript was lost. This necessitated the work being done all over. It is expected this will be finished this year.

THE SHORTER DAY.

Trouble has developed through the enforcement of the Provincial Eight Hour Act, which gives the eight hour working day to all workers in and around a coal mine. The underground workers had the Eight Hour Day. This legislation extends it to those employed on the surface. In the application of the measure, however, W. H. Armstrong, director of Coal Operations in District 18 (Eastern B. C. and the Province of Alberta), has issued an order permitting a reduction in wages proportionate to the time employed. Thus, in Eastern British Columbia, which embraces the Crow's Nest Pass Collieries, the men, while getting a shorter day by an hour, may expect a reduction in their pay. As a result orders recently came to the unions of Fernie and Michel from the Calgary, Alberta, headquarters of the U. M. W. of A. to take a ballot of the men to ascertain their feeling as to the declaration of a strike for the purpose of registering their resentment of the Armstrong dictum and, of course, to force the company to pay the same scale for nine as for eight hours. This was done and shows that the majority are in favor of the extreme step should it become necessary.

Further advices received to-day from Fernie make slight change necessary in my notes re enforcement of Eight Hour Day Law and its result, namely, the taking of a strike vote in District 18, the outcome being that the majority appear to be in favor of that course of action. It seems that the surface workmen in and about the Crowsnest Pass Coal Mines have been, generally, conceded nine hours pay for eight hours work, that is their wages will not be affected by the

change in hours called for by statute. Some, however, notably the fanmen at Coal Creek, have been working ten and eleven hours a day. In cutting their working day to eight hours it is proposed that their pay shall be based on the nine hour rate, in other words, if they worked ten hours, one hour's pay will be taken from their wages. It is on behalf of men so placed that the strike is proposed and not, as suggested in my memorandum of yesterday, for the maintenance of the claim of all surface workers for nine hours pay for eight hours work. No definite action has yet been ordered from the U. M. W. of A. headquarters at Calgary and in the meantime W. H. Armstrong, the director of coal operations, is at Fernie conferring with the men and the operators with a view to the reaching of an understanding that will avoid the tying up of the coal mining industry of eastern British Columbia and Alberta.

WASAPIKA.

There is considerable interest now in the West Shining Tree gold area. It seems likely that the area will at last receive the attention it deserves. The good judgment and persistence of Mr. George Rogers, who has been responsible for most of the development work done in recent years, seems very likely to result in the adding of at least one mine to Ontario's gold producers. Mr. Rogers has been quietly plodding along and we are glad to learn that he is meeting with considerable success. If the Wasapika proves to be as good as it looks it will be a real mine.

Some good should come out of all the discussions that are now going on in the industrial world. It is reasonable to hope for a better understanding between employer and employee in the future. There is naturally a feeling of pessimism over the present situation; but after both sides have been presented and the differences adjusted Canada will undoubtedly begin a new era of industrial prosperity.

It has been brought forward as a cause for discontent that certain companies have published reports showing that they made very large profits. It is well to bear in mind, however, that it is customary to give much more publicity to successful ventures than to unsuccessful ones. Comparatively few men care to advertise their losses.

Molly Gibson.

The Molly Gibson, one of the properties of the Canadian Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, situated near Kitto Landing on Kootenay Lake, which has been idle for some months, is once more shipping ore. The tram line, which was damaged by snow-slides, has been repaired.

Pumping Out Suquash Mine.

The pumping of the water from the workings of the Suquash Mine of the Pacific Coast Collieries, which is situated some distance north of Nanaimo, B.C., on the east coast of Vancouver Island, is being undertaken. This mine was closed when the war broke out in 1914 and since has been practically deserted. It is understood to be the company's intention to put the mine on a producing basis at the earliest possible moment. The Suquash coal is of good quality and with adequate transportation facilities should be assured a ready market.