

BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCIAL TIMES

A Journal of Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Real Estate, Timber and Mining

Vol. III. No. 23

VANCOUVER, DECEMBER 2, 1916

SINGLE COPY 10c
THE YEAR \$2.00

Encouraging Aspects of British Columbia Trade

Remarkable Mining Developments, with Healthy Lumber Trade, Activity in General Industry and Business, Are Sources of Keen Satisfaction and Promise Much for the Future.

It is not difficult to note that a change has taken place in the trade and industry of British Columbia since the beginning of summer. Signs are numerous of increased healthy activity. The good times which have been experienced in the East for the past eighteen months, directly the result of war orders, and the good times which have been the order of the day in the Prairie Provinces as a result of the bumper harvests of last year, have to a considerable degree wended their way Westward, until they have touched and revived this great Pacific Coast Province.

In the field of mining, the present status and outlook have never been so encouraging. The output this year will reach at least \$40,000,000, and may possibly run \$5,000,000 higher. Every smelter in the Province would be running at capacity if it were not for a coke shortage, and many thousands of tons of ore are being treated outside the Province because of inadequate smelter capacity or because of the nature of the ore being such that no British Columbia smelter can handle it economically. The clamor for increased smelter capacity is insistent and steadily becoming greater. Due to the high prices of metals, the year's earnings on shipping mines are something fair to contemplate.

But the most satisfactory feature of the mining industry is the large amount of development work now being carried on. There is hardly a mining interest in North America which does not appear to have an agent in the Province on the lookout for claims or actively engaged in making investigations. Bonds, sales, transfers figure in the press almost daily. The development work being carried on is distributed throughout the Province. While perhaps the largest amount of this work is being carried on in the Kootenay, the best known portion of the Province, yet the North has shown up in more spectacular fashion. Mining development and prospecting in the Hazelton District have been exceedingly active, as in also the country further north and west. The Coast District has many mines in partial state of development, as has also Vancouver Island. These

mines in the ensuing year will be shippers, and some likely large shippers, of ore.

An exceedingly gratifying feature of all this mining activity is that it is being carried on on the most legitimate and conservative lines. The day of the wild-catter has not arrived. Let the mining interests and the Government guard against this forthcoming outbreak with every means in their powers.

The lumber industry is enjoying a large increase in activity at more remunerative prices than for the past two or three years. The logging department of the industry has been breaking records in the history of the forestry department. It will be recalled that during the late spring there was a movement on foot to restrict the output of logs to maintain a reasonable profit for all. The situation rapidly changed, so much so that the July output of logs exceeded 140 million feet—a record—and now the October output just made public exceeds 156 million feet. The Prairie and Eastern demand has been excellent all summer and fall, all due to the excellent crops of last year. This fall there was a let-up in demand, due to partial crop failures, although orders still continue in fair volume. The mills of the Interior are pushed to fill their orders. A second bumper crop in Alberta has produced considerable buoyancy, and farm and town building in Southern Alberta particularly is active. Interior mills, due to favourable freight rates, are in best position to handle this demand; hence their present activity.

The high price of paper has directed attention to our pulp timber resources. The Powell River Company is working to capacity. The Ocean Falls plant is fast coming to the producing stage. The Swanson Bay pulp lease is being developed to produce sulphite fibre, while the B. C. Sulphite plant at Mill Creek has extended its mills and increased its output. The Quatsino lease is also undergoing development. Many millions of dollars are being spent in developing our pulp wood resources.

Agriculture should enjoy unbounded prosperity. But our farmers are too few to make the impression on our economic position that is its right. The harvests in the Province have been uniformly favourable. Fruit crops have been larger than last year, with better prices obtaining. The potato yield was excellent, and the prices are higher

ENCOURAGING ASPECT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TRADE

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES FOR 1915

BANK OF MONTREAL PREPARES FOR POST WAR PERIOD.

RECENT ANNUAL REPORTS

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT STATISTICS FOR 1916

PROVINCIAL FORESTRY RETURNS FOR OCTOBER

MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA

TRUST COMPANY NOTES, COMPANY NOTES, INSURANCE, MUNICIPAL, LUMBER, MINING, AND OTHER INFORMATION.