

The Portland Canal District, including that embracing the valley of the Upper Skeena, comprises an area of mineral and agricultural lands that has few if any parallels in this western world, and it is only a question of a very short time before these great assets will be utilized and play an important part in the upbuilding of Western Canada.

For many years the district has been favorably known for its extensive metalliferous deposits, the principal ores being those of gold, silver, lead and copper. Extensive development work has been undertaken on several properties, and a favorable indication of the financial support now being accorded may be noted in the successful inauguration of the Portland Canal Tunnels Limited. This company has recently begun the driving of a 2,000-ft. tunnel to tap the veins of the principal Glacier Creek mines at depth, and the endorsement of the enterprise by eminent mining engineers and financiers augurs well for its success.

Owing to lack of capital a large number of meritorious properties have been idle, but this period of inactivity is practically at an end, and funds for the development of properties are now becoming available.

### **Development Work.**

The Ground Hog mountain anthracite coal fields, occupying an area of 2,000 square miles, have been extensively reported on by eminent geologists and compared with those of Pennsylvania for extent and richness, and capital is being readily furnished for the opening up of the fields.

Four companies will continue development work throughout the winter, and extensive operations are contemplated for next season, and in view of the demand for smokeless coal, a ready market will be available for the product of the mines when railroad transportation is provided.

Attention has been directed to the value of this coal as an imperial asset, and considering the geographical location of the fields and their nearness to tide water in conjunction with the scarcity of smokeless coal upon the Pacific Coast it is not looking too far ahead to see the day when the coal of Ground Hog will be utilized by the Navy in the Western seas.