SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Rocher de Boule Strikes High Grade.

A shoot of ore of high grade, about seventeen feet in width, is said to have been struck by the Rocher de Boule Mining Co. on its property at New Hazleton, B.C. In the effort to locate this ore, a low-level tunnel was driven without result, but a streak of ore was noticed, and it was decided to raise on this. The shoot was encountered at an elevation of about 160 feet above the main level and, according to report, it has a great prospective value. A mill is to be erected to treat the lower grade of ore.

Prospecting for Platinum.

With further reference to prospecting for platinum in Western Canada, it is authoritatively reported that the Munition Resources Commission of the Dominion Government has a drill at work on the Saskatchewan River and another on the Peace River in British Columbia. The Tulameen River, of this Province, is to be thoroughly tested, two drills being on the way for operation there. It is understood that there already are two drills at work in the placer ground of this river.

Shipments to Trail Increase.

That the mining industry in British Columbia has been picking up in the last few weeks is indicated by the returns from the Trail Smeltery for the week ending June 30th. These showed that 6,510 tons was received for treatment as compared with 3,233 tons for the week ending June 21st. The shipments by districts follow: Rossland, 1,807; Slocan and Ainsworth, 1,102; Nelson, 97; Boundary, 730; East Kootenay, 1,462; other mines, 96; American mines, 1,216.

Authoritative reports indicate that there is only a difference of 119 tons in the quantity of ore received by the Trail Smeltery for treatment during the first six months of 1917 and the first half of the present year. The figures are: First half 1917, 179,493 tons; first half 1918, 179,274 tons. This showing is surprising, because the Rossland mines have been practically closed down, and there was a period of market depression and inactivity as far as the lead-silver-zinc mines of the Boundary, Slocan and Kootenay districts of the Province. It is thought likely that the revival, which is very evident at present, will result in much larger shipments over the remainder of the year and thus bring British Columbia's total production further up than was expected. The shipments by months follow:

	1917.	1918.
January	36,570	27,404
February	40,967	33,989
March	42,949	41,725
April	25,909	37,029
May	15,969	21,162
June	15,969	21,162
Totals	179,493	179,274

Prospectors Are Staking Claims Near Olivine Mountain

With further reference to the prospecting in progress in British Columbia for platinum Mr. Eugene Poitevin, a mineralogist attached to the Department of Mines, Ottawa, has returned after spending a few weeks at Olivine Mountain, near Tulameen, B.C. It is hoped that the source of both the gold and platinum of the Tulameen River placer ground will be found, as the character of what is being recovered along the rivers and streams of the district indicates that it has not been carried a great distance. It is suggested that the Dominion Government may place a diamond drill in operation to prove some of the outcroppings in the mountain. That general interest has been aroused in the work is shown by the fact that there are many prospectors camped along the Tulameen river in close proximity to the mountain, and that quite a number of claims have been staked.

Western Gold Production Falling.

That some action should be taken by the State to encourage the production of gold is the consensus of opinion in British Columbia, where the effect of the ever-increasing cost of mining and of the augmented values of most minerals, with, of course, the exception of gold, has been felt to a serious extent. A notable case in point is the closing down of the Rossland Mines by the Canadian Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. It is felt that, under the exceptional conditions, some effort should be made to maintain the output of gold, which is steadily declining in this Province. This is conclusively shown by the figures contained in the 1917 report of the Minister of Mines, as follows:—

British Columbia's output of placer and lode gold for the years 1915, 1916 and 1917: 1915, Placer 38,500 oz., value $770,000; Lode, 250,021 oz., value $5,167,934. 1916, Placer $29,025 oz., value $580,500; Lode 221,932 oz., value $4,587,334. 1917, Placer 24,800 oz., value $496,000; Lode, 114,523 oz., value $2,367,190.

For this reason, a resolution passed by the Northwest Mining Association recently at a specially-called meeting, held at Spokane, Wash., meets with hearty approval here. The resolution is very clear in its terms and, while it refers specifically to conditions as they are in the United States, the principle enunciated is applicable and is accepted among mining men and those who have given the matter intelligent consideration in Canada. It follows:—

"That all war taxes be remitted insofar as they affect gold mining; That the present advance in freight rates be abrogated in respect to the gold mines that are unable to operate at a profit under the present rates; That commercially inaccessible gold properties of merit be made accessible through the building of motor roads; That the gold mining industry be placed on the same basis as other war industries in respect to financial assistance, to be extended through the war finance corporation or by means of re-discounts through the federal reserve bank, or through any other means that may be devised; That operators of gold properties be given Government guaranty, instead of a bonus, which guaranty shall assure to gold mine operators profits commensurate with those that would have accrued to them under the pre-war conditions and prices of labor, supplies, taxes and other items of general expense; That any and all Acts of the Government directed to the financial aid of the gold mining industry, as above set forth, shall be subject to the examinations, reports and recommendations of properly qualified mining and accounting experts acting on behalf of the Government; That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to Secretary McAdoo and to the senators and representatives of the various mining states."

Britannia Mine.

At Britannia Mine the new mill is reported to be handling between 2,200 and 2,300 tons of ore a day. It is reported to be one of the most efficient on the continent, being credited with an extraction of between 94 and 95 per cent. The company has opened what is termed Mammoth Bluff as a quarry which marks the