

mines will be steady producers during the year, and it is altogether likely that the several more properties will be brought into the shipping list before the year is out with every prospect of still others approaching the shipping stage. The whole district centering about Stewart on Portland Canal, including Alice Arm, and the mineral discoveries on the Kitsault River, with the Dolly Varden assuming large importance as a silver producer gives every indication of a greatly increased production of the white metal during the ensuing year.

The production of gold, which has been seriously interfered with because of rising prices of materials and increasing cost of operation, are being met with large developments in the Cariboo district which give every indication of great importance. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway in tapping the Cariboo district has brought several of the low grade gold properties into the economic production probabilities, and if the Barkerville district continues to show economic ores from the developments that have taken place during the year, it will be imperative to extend this railway into that district for the development of its mineral resources. The Surf Inlet Mine on Princess Royal Island is the largest producer of gold in the province, and as its development is being extended the possibilities of its continued expansion in production are bright.

The production of coal and coke for the year would have shown an increase had it not been for the Crow's Nest Pass strike. Not only are these strikes, which are ever recurring in that district, serious in the mining of coal, but they have an adverse influence on the treatment of ore for its reduction in the manufacture of metallurgical coke. It would appear that unless some stability in labor conditions were brought about the operation of smelters in the Interior would be continually hindered by these strikes and the smelters may have to resort to other sources for permanent coke supply than those available in the immediate vicinity. So serious has this become in the case of the Anyox plant of the Granby company that at large expense this company acquired coal lands and erected collieries and a townsite on Vancouver Island which will place this company beyond any doubt as to its coke supply. The operations of this company had an important bearing on the production of coal on Vancouver Island, which, with increasing production of other mines in large measure compensated for the restricted output of the Interior. Due to increasing labor costs, notwithstanding the rise in prices of coal, the Vancouver Island collieries did not make as good a showing as the increased production would indicate.

The development of prospects throughout the year has been very favorable. A large number of properties have been turned over with a view to development which will be prosecuted during the year. Several promising properties have uncovered sufficient ore to warrant extensive equipment and treating plants. A great deal of capital is available and a large number of engineers have been in the province all year investigating properties that have been brought to the attention of capital. From the point of view of the future the mining outlook never looked better than it does at present.

The fishing industry has had a successful year. While the production of \$21,500,000 last year cannot be equalled this year, due to shrinkage in the salmon pack of 223,000 cases, it will nevertheless make a larger total with the exception of 1918 than any previous year. Herring, cod and ground fish will show increases over the previous year, but halibut continues to show a decline in the catch. As in the lumbering industry, the fisherman, the packer, the curer and the cold storage man with all their employees have experienced a prosperous year. Nothing may be ventured as to the future, but so long as food is in the present high demand the handling of fish food will prove a profitable industry. It seems that a conservative estimate of the provincial fisheries production would be, in value, about \$18,000,000.

The agricultural production will probably exceed that of 1918 when for all phases of agriculture it approximated \$50,000,000. Due to the wide transfers of developed farms through the operations of the Lands Settlement Boards in helping to place the returned soldier on the land, some decline in general agricultural production may possibly ensue. The outstanding feature of the agricultural production was the favorable fruit and vegetable crops of the Interior, where the increase is confidently anticipated to be 25 per cent. With the high prices obtaining for the pack considerable prosperity has been brought about in the Okanagan and Kootenay districts. Some falling off in the potato production has been experienced, due to late frosts. Grains have experienced good results and will approximately total that of last year. Considerable increase in prices were experienced throughout the year, which will tend to give a very favorable total to the entire production of the farms. With irrigation projects being developed, with larger acreage being in process of cultivation, with the clearing of land such as is instanced at Courteney on Vancouver Island, the prospect for increased production is bright.

The basic industries of the province, those founded on our great natural resources, all give evidence of increasing activity as they become more developed. The industries of the province outside of those connected with our natural resources have, too, experienced an active and prosperous year. The shipbuilding industry, about which so much concern is felt, has actually exceeded the 1918 production by 15,000 tons, with approximately 66,000 tons still on order and awaiting completion. The building of wooden ships is in serious doubt, but the situation in the steel shipbuilding industry is much better than was anticipated. While orders are difficult to secure and the Dominion Government shows a disposition to enter into additional contracts for its own merchant marine with considerable hesitancy, a great deal of work is still being carried on in the province. Prince Rupert and Victoria are building steel ships for Dominion Government account as well as Vancouver. J. Coughlan & Sons, who floated during the year 51,400 tons of steel cargo ships, have announced their intention of going into the ship operation business for their own account. If any considerable degree of success attends this effort, it seems likely that the last day of steel shipbuilding before a steel industry is actually established on the British Columbia coast is yet in the dim future. The influence of shipbuilding in the city of Vancouver, as well as in Victoria and in Prince Rupert has a very important effect on the business of these cities, and so long as British Columbia yards can compete with Eastern Canada and American yards, it is profoundly to be hoped that the industry may be kept alive.

The factories of the province have enjoyed a successful year. The demand for production has been so great that eastern competition has been less severe and all factories have been practically working to capacity. It is difficult to say how long this condition will obtain, but so long as the void of goods continues the demand will remain the same. Wholesale and jobbing trade has been exceptionally active. The spread in price has given as profitable a year as the previous one, with perhaps an even larger turnover than in 1918. Retail trade has had a similar experience with the difficulty of keeping stocks on hand to meet the demand of trade. With the excellent credit conditions obtaining, where a large percentage of the business is done on a strictly cash basis or on short term sale, wholesale and retail trade have had a very profitable and active year with no sign in the future of any material change taking place.

In financial, insurance and mortgage lines business has been active. Vancouver and Victoria are growing fast as investment centres.

The widespread prosperity, the experience of citizens in holding Victory bonds have induced a large amount of savings to be placed in high class investment securities. The results of the experience of these investments presage con-