

which milk is produced. Practical dairymen, producers and distributors, are agreed that, while this is a worthy work, in so far as the quality of the product offered for sale is concerned, rigid inspection of milk at city plants under uniform and impartially enforced regulations would amply safeguard public health and the costs of this effort would fall upon those directly benefitting.

Educative—

(a.) It is recommended that educational efforts be confined to statistical and research work supported by an intelligent use of bulletins and lectures.

(b.) While it is recognized that an occasional farmer avails himself of the assistance and instruction offered by the various branches of the Department operating under this classification, the great majority of those engaged in agriculture carry on according to their own ideas or fail to use to advantage the information and instruction given.

(c.) The amount of money granted to Fairs is out of all proportion to their educational value and, apart from obligations in respect to buildings which have yet several years to run, these grants should be substantially reduced and in the case of very small fairs, discontinued.

195. With every regard for the sincerity of purpose behind the activities of the Department of Agriculture, we are of opinion that discontinuing expenditures herein recommended, while the Province is in its present financial difficulty, will not prove a shock to the industry. Those engaged in agriculture do not desire special treatment not accorded other major industries. What these people do desire is that they be given the opportunity of carrying on their productive and marketing operations under conditions governing in other basic national industries, and that from time to time they be given such legislative enactment as may be required to enable them to develop, regulate and control their industry in the interests of the industry and the State.

196. If the foregoing recommendations are adopted, they will effect an economy of \$192,063.

FISHERIES.

197. It would probably be found on inquiry that the majority of those interested in the fishing industry would welcome a union of the control now exercised separately by our Dominion and Provincial Governments. The distance separating our Coast from Ottawa naturally suggests that Victoria would prove more convenient and would have a more intimate knowledge of the requirements of the industry than Ottawa. It is probable, however, that the Dominion authorities would be reluctant to hand over these activities to the Provincial Government. We are unable to find that any useful service given by the present Provincial Department of Fisheries could not very easily be supplied by the Fisheries Department of the Dominion. We therefore recommend that the Provincial Department of Fisheries be closed, thereby effecting an economy in excess of \$20,000 and that arrangements be made with Ottawa accordingly. If this is done it is probable that the granting of licences and collection of revenues could be transferred to the Department of Finance.

MINES.

198. The Department of Mines has now its own Minister, Deputy Minister and other officials, and it cost \$299,568.22 for the year ended March 31st, 1931, and is estimated to cost \$177,951.76 for the current year ending March 31st, 1933, made up as follows:—

Minister's Office	\$12,309.80
General Office	17,749.36
Bureau of Mines	16,182.20
Mines Inspection Branch	33,543.00
Mine-rescue and Training Stations	10,048.00
Sundries	11,200.00
Grants in aid of Mining Roads and Trails under the "Mines Development Act"	50,000.00
Expenditures under the "Mineral Survey and Development Act, 1917," being salaries and expenses of Resident Engineers.....	26,919.40
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	\$177,951.76

In our opinion, this Department should be reorganized as we are satisfied that substantial economies can be effected.

199. As at present constituted the Department consists of what are in effect four branches, all of which function more or less independently, namely:—

- (a.) General Office.
- (b.) Bureau of Mines.
- (c.) Inspection Branch.
- (d.) District Resident Engineer Service.

200. With the inclusion of the Department of Mines as the Mines Branch of the Department of Natural Resources its own Minister and Deputy Minister will disappear. Apart from the issuance of leases and other titles to mining properties, and the keeping of records of various kinds and the supervision of Mining Recorders and other outside officials, technical service constitutes the most work of the Department. For this reason we recommend that the head of the Mines Branch be a technical man who will be the chief adviser to the Minister of Natural Resources and his Deputy on all matters relating to the mining industry and will be responsible to them for all technical and administrative matters.

201. As we conceive the Mines Branch, it will have two sides, the administrative and the technical, both under the technical man already referred to. The administrative side will include the work now done by the general office of the Department, and the technical side will embrace the other three present branches, namely, the Bureau of Mines, the Inspection Branch, and the Resident Engineer Service, but co-ordinated and brought together with a view to preventing overlapping of service to a much greater degree than at present.

202. Outside the Provincial Mineralogist and the Provincial Assayer, who are stationed in Victoria, there are two sets of trained men in the Department. First, the Inspectors in the Mines Inspection Branch, and secondly, the Resident Engineers appointed under the "Mineral Survey and Development Act."

203. The Mines Inspection Branch now consists of one Chief Inspector and eight Inspectors, and carries out inspections under the "Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act," the "Coal Mines Regulation Act," and the "Quarries Regulation Act," all of which are designed to ensure the safety of mining or quarrying employees. There are five Resident Engineers and one Assistant appointed under and charged with the duties imposed by the "Mineral Survey and Development Act." We are informed that these Inspectors in the Inspection Branch all received their training in coal-mines, and yet are required to inspect metalliferous mines. It seems to us somewhat anomalous that the services of the Resident Engineers, whose principal training is in metalliferous mining, should not be used to inspect the metal mines. We therefore recommend that the complete severance between the activities of the Inspectors and the Resident Engineers be terminated and that they be brought together and described as Inspectors, whose duties according to their respective qualifications will be assigned by the technical head of the Mines Branch.

204. The technical side of the new Mines Branch will consist, in the main, of these Inspectors, but substantially reduced in number from the sum of the personnel comprising the present Inspection Branch and the Resident Engineer Service. A comparison of the number of Inspectors in British Columbia with those employed in Alberta and Ontario indicates definitely that our number is too large, and consequently that our inspection costs are greater than in those two Provinces.

205. These Inspectors will be charged with the inspection and other duties laid down by the "Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act," the "Coal-mines Regulation Act," the "Quarries Regulation Act," the "Coal Sales Act," and the "Mineral Survey and Development Act." If this is done, we are of opinion that considerable overlapping of work will be prevented, that costs will be substantially reduced, and that it will be possible to arrange for the inspection of metalliferous mines being made by men trained in that type of mining.

206. With a technical man at the head of the Mines Branch, the need for a separate Bureau of Mines would largely disappear. In our opinion, its work would be done by the technical side by the retention of the Provincial Assayer and one or two other trained men who would be available for technical work outside of that undertaken by the Inspectors. The technical side so organized would, in addition to inspection work, be able to maintain the investigational and research service of the mineral resources of the Province to the standard of the