

About 1,300 tons of coal are shipped daily by these two coal companies and the mines are worked 24 hours per day, the men working three 8-hour shifts. With the other two coal companies developing and when in a position to ship as the above companies, what will it mean to Merritt—INCREASED POPULATION, LARGER CURRENCY CIRCULATION, REALTY PRICES ADVANCED, AND THE WORDS ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS—PROSPERITY.

Experts have declared Merritt and district to have unlimited quantities of coal, in fact the largest deposits in the Interior of British Columbia. No wonder Premier McBride said in one of his famous speeches in the Legislature in 1911, that "the people of British Columbia might look to Merritt and the Nicola Valley as one of the largest coal producing centers in the Interior." The Premier's words are coming true.

RANCHES

Apart from coal mining, Merritt's main industry and support, extensive ranching, is carried on and most successfully.

One of the largest cattle ranches in British Columbia called the Douglas Lake & Cattle Co. has its Westerly boundary only 7 miles distant from Merritt. Adjoining this company's ranch is the Guichon Ranch, which ranks in size next to the Douglas Lake Cattle Co.

Small valleys branch out of Merritt to the North, South, East and West, and are all settled with well-to-do ranchers, therefore Merritt is not entirely dependent upon coal mining, but has a remunerative producing agricultural country behind it, which creates a steady influx of money circulated in Merritt.