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Progress of British Columbia During 1914

Statement of Premier on Mining, Lumber, Fisheries and Agriculture Shows Grounds for Encouragement, While Railway and Public Works Construction Have Been Actively Pushed.

In a statement covering the activities of the Province during 1914, the Premier, Sir Richard McBride, summarizes the developments in part:

"Taking up the natural industries of the Province and dealing with the production of mines first, I find that the estimated output for last year is nearly \$26,000,000, as against a little over \$30,000,000 in 1913, of about 15 per cent. decrease. It must be remembered, however, that the average market prices of metals were much lower in 1914 than in 1913, which accounts for about \$1,250,000 of the decrease. The first six months showed a greater production than ever before during a similar period, and promised to make a record-breaker. The war had the effect of reducing the output and the closing of smelters for a time, and consequently affecting the output of coal. Recently, as the result of readjustment to new conditions, mining and smelting have been resumed, and we find that in Rossland, the Boundary and the Slocan there is less unemployment than in most other parts of the Province. Coal mining on the Island was affected by strikes during the early part of the year, and later again, as the result of the war, production was reduced. At the present time the output is about 6,750 tons per day, or about 61 per cent. of the capacity of producing mines. In this connection, let me say that the dividends of the mining companies of the Province in 1914, notwithstanding the war, have been \$1,690,000, as against nearly \$2,400,000 in 1913 and \$465,000 in excess of what they were in 1912. This, to me, is a remarkable showing in the circumstances.

"The timber industry, which has assumed large proportions during recent years, has been suffering from depression, not so much on account of the war as prevailing conditions which preceded it. The productive capacity of our mills is in excess of present local and Middle West demands, and, as a consequence, dealers became overstocked. This situation has called serious attention to the oppor-

tunities of export trade, of which, in the past, British Columbia has not received its share. To remedy this condition the Government, co-operating with other Provincial bodies, is making a strong effort to obtain a preferential tariff for our lumber from the Australian Commonwealth, and in other ways to develop a trade within the Empire and with the South American republics. I am hopeful that, as a result of sentiment as well as of business arrangements, large export shipments will shortly be made.

"A remarkable result of war conditions has been the stimulus given to the pulp and paper business, which the Government has been endeavoring for years past to develop in this Province. The mills at Powell River and Howe Sound have been flooded with orders from Australia, South America, New Zealand, Japan and the Atlantic seaboard, the only unfavorable condition being the serious shortage of available shipping and the disturbances to freight rates caused by the war. The forest revenue for 1914 has exceeded \$2,000,000.

"The year 1914 has proved a banner year for the fisheries of British Columbia. The salmon pack was the greatest of any off-year, and approximated returns achieved in the best of the big years. A total of 1,100,000 cases of salmon were packed, and, owing to the good prices prevailing, not only for the choicer varieties, but also for the cheaper fish, returns from this source alone will prove a substantial one. The catch of other varieties of fish has been most satisfactory. Owing to the interruption of fishing in the North Sea, and from British and Continental

ports, new markets have been opened to our product, which have meant, and to a greater degree will mean increased activity in the industry. British Columbia canned salmon and British Columbia halibut have led the world for years. It has been demonstrated during the past year that British Columbia herring can be prepared in a manner which enables it to compete with the finest product of the Old World. When it is remembered that herring is the chief fish of the world, that the Scotch catch has fallen off fifty per cent. during the last summer, that the quantities landed in Holland and Germany are nil, and that our supplies of the raw material are inexhaustible, it can be seen what a future lies before this branch of the industry. The produc-

PROGRESS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DURING 1914.

PROVIDING SINEWS OF WAR.

GREAT SCOPE OF LIFE INSURANCE
POLICIES.
J. A. Johnson.

RECENT COMPANY REPORTS.

MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

TRUST COMPANY NOTES, COMPANY NOTES
INSURANCE, MUNICIPAL LUMBER,
MINING AND OTHER INFOR-
MATION.