

feet. The orebody is well mineralized and is quite up to the expectations of the management. The three-compartment shaft on the property is being driven to the 500-foot level at record rate. When this level is reached a large station will be cut and lateral work will be undertaken both on the Ankerite and the Maidens-McDonald property, which is also owned by the Coniagas Mining company. It is expected the ore depositions from the Ankerite will be found to continue into the Maidens-McDonald. Results obtaining from present development and results encountered in diamond drilling indicates the Coniagas company have a valuable acquisition in their Porcupine properties.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Dissatisfaction has increased among mine operators, as more and more of them have come to realize what a heavy levy last year's tax legislation, which came into effect on January 1st of this year, will make upon them. Various Boards of Trade have taken the matter up, and prominent mine managers have also protested against this additional burden being placed on the mining industry of the province, this being additional to the taxation provided for by the Dominion Government last year. Whether the Provincial Government will or will not take steps at the forthcoming session of the local Legislative Assembly to meet the requests of mining men and others interested, is not yet known. Meanwhile it is claimed that this changed attitude of the government towards the mining industry is having the effect of deterring outside capitalists from putting more money into mining enterprises in the province.

In an official bulletin, issued last month by the British Columbia Department of Mines, there is included a statement which shows the dividends declared by metaliferous mining companies during the calendar years 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1917. The total for 1917 is made to appear to have been \$3,800,847, but in order to make this larger showing than in other years, two companies appear to have been credited with the dividend payments of five quarters each instead of four. The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, Trail, is credited with \$1,258,438, and the "Standard Silver-Lead Mining Co., Silvertown Co., Grand Forks" (which, presumably, is a careless misprint for the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Co.) with \$1,874,210. Now, each of the companies—the Consolidated and the Granby—paid four dividends in 1917 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, so it is quite evident the official figures have been improperly inflated. It is true, footnotes appended state that there are included \$261,935 for the one company and \$374,362 for the other, "earned and declared in 1917, but payable January, 1918," but even that does not justify the inclusion, in a statement purporting to show the year's dividends of one quarter each for two companies, the amounts of which had been included in the 1916 total. The misstatements were easily avoidable, since several newspapers and journals had already published dividend figures that were within a few dollars of being correct. Further, the Granby Consolidated Co.'s issued capital was \$14,998,520 at the close of its year ended June 30, 1916, and \$15,000,042 as at June 30, 1917, while the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.'s recently published annual report showed that at September 30, 1917, its issued capital was \$10,477,450, and that three dividends declared in 1917, prior to September 30, totalled \$784,317.50, so that there remained only the fourth quarter's dividend of \$261,936.25, payable January 1, to add, which would make the calendar year's total \$1,046,-

253.75. Instead, therefore, of the two companies mentioned having been stated to have declared dividends in 1917 together totalling \$3,132,648, they should have been shown as having declared dividends totalling about \$2,545,500, or approximately \$587,000 less than shown in the official publication here referred to.

East Kootenay.

The Cranbrook Herald recently ridiculed a report to the effect that the American Smelting and Refining Company has decided to establish smelting works in East Kootenay. It is stated that the company is doing diamond-drilling on some mineral claims on North Star Hill, in Fort Steele mining division, which property it holds under option of purchase, but beyond that the big United States company is not spending money in East Kootenay at the present time.

Published official statistics place the coal production of the several collieries in the Crowsnest district of Southeast Kootenay for 1917 at 552,358 long tons of coal, as compared with 882,270 tons in 1916. The quantity used for coke-making was about 187,275 tons, and the output of coke was 129,155 tons, as compared with 240,121 tons in 1916.

Official comment follows: "The output would have been considerably greater had not the Crowsnest collieries met with a series of misfortunes during the year that interfered with production, and, in addition to this, there was a serious shortage of labor—partly caused by the heavy enlistment of the younger men—and in the Fall there were labor troubles."

The collieries that were operated were those of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, at Coal Creek, and Michel, respectively, and the Corbin Coal and Coke Company, at Corbin.

West Kootenay.

Ainsworth.—There is a promise of more attention being given to mines in the Woodberry Creek region, in Ainsworth mining division, this year, than for several years past. Lacking even wagon-road transportation facilities, though, the properties up that creek are under a great disadvantage, since pack-horses have to be used for taking in supplies and bringing out ore, consequently development operations are much restricted.

Mr. A. R. Langley, resident engineer for Eastern Mineral Survey District No. 5, in his published official report, includes mention of the Manganese Group, as follows: "This property is owned by A. J. Curle, of Kaslo, and A. G. Larson, and is situated on the Kaslo & Nakusp railway, six miles and a half from Kaslo. Very little development and mining work have been done as yet. Some 600 sacks of ore are ready for shipment, and the owners claim that a considerable tonnage is available for extraction at low cost. Average assays run as follows: Manganese, 42.06 per cent.; iron, 1 per cent.; moisture, 13.12 per cent.; silica, 4 per cent.; phosphorus, 0.01 per cent. The limited exploratory work done would indicate that the ore occurs as a blanket deposit lying on or near the surface and having a thickness of from 1 to 3.5 feet. This property has possibilities and further work should be done to determine the extent and character of the deposit."

Slocan.—According to a published official bulletin, the Government resident engineer for the district in which this mining division is situated, has reported approximate shipments of ore and concentrates in 1917 from mines in the division as follows: Of ore: Lucky Thought 923 tons, Echo 79 tons, Queen Bess 2,225 tons, Wonderful 250 tons, Sovereign 169 tons, Idaho-Alamo