

1918, when the price of the metal was high and the estimate of earnings was in the neighborhood of \$400,000 on 3,843,686 pounds.

The production in January, 1919, was made almost solely at the Anyox smelter, where the costs are 10 to 11 cents a pound. An intention of suspending operations at the Grand Forks smelter soon was announced several weeks ago. The production by pounds for the last 13 months at both smelters is contained in the table that follows:

January, 1919, 3,156,486; December, 2,955,450; November, 2,147,405; October, 2,549,474; September, 3,371,535; August, 2,810,207; July, 2,167,077; June, 3,438,521; May, 3,803,185; April, 3,689,982; March, 3,807,600; February, 3,842,686; January, 1918, 4,209,393.

Although copper production is so discouraging with the fall in prices, and the overstocks of producers, the situation with those properties which are operating on Vancouver Island does not appear to be as pessimistic as had been expected.

While war time prices encouraged the development of low grade properties, the sudden change in the situation has compelled the operators to revise their plans materially, particularly in the face of the high cost of labor, and materials. It appears from conversation with operators that the policy will be this summer to develop the properties, and ascertain the extent of the ore bodies in sight, so that if market conditions straighten themselves out this fall, the stocks may be disposed of on a more favorable market late in the year.

Spokane operators were here last week examining one of the East Sooke properties. They took samples, and expect to reach a decision in the early future as to investment. A large quantity of high grade ore has been blocked out at the Sunloch mine, Jordan River, it is reported, which promises favorably. Last year the Sunloch was largely occupied in preliminary development looking to production later.

Reports from the Alberni district are generally favorable to copper properties. Very little ore will be shipped this year from the Dewdney mine, Sidney Inlet, at any rate until the fall. It has been decided meanwhile

to proceed with the improvement of the concentrating facilities. The enlarged plant is not expected to be ready before August. The production during this summer will, therefore, be held for more favorable markets.

"Two million dollars' worth of ore will be shipped out of the Portland Canal country next summer, and the district will have a population of 2,000," predicts Mr. R. W. Martin, of Seattle, one of the owners of the Mineral Hill partnership group of claims on Salmon River, three miles above the sensational Bush mine, which every mining man who has examined says appears to be fabulously rich.

By next season Mr. Martin looks for the completion of the wagon road so as to furnish transportation to his and other properties in the district, thus giving them an opportunity to ship some of the high-grade ore now being mined. The Bush property has been producing this winter. Test shipments from the Mineral Hill are to be made shortly.

News that fifty thousand dollars' worth of ore per month is being shipped out of the Salmon River mining district in northern British Columbia, is given out by Mr. O. B. Bush of Vancouver. The amount will be steadily increased. The shipments are from the old Salmon-Bear River Mining Company's property, now being developed by Mr. R. K. Neill, of Spokane. The ore body was discovered by Mr. Bush in 1910, but very little work was done on it till 1917.

"The Salmon River Valley is becoming famous as one of the great mining districts of British Columbia owing to the development of the old Salmon-Bear River Mining Company's property," says Mr. Bush. "A large mineralized zone 400 feet wide has been traced for more than 8000 feet in length and ore has been found on six different claims. These claims are owned by the Premier Gold Mines Limited and the Bush Mines Limited of Vancouver. Several ore shoots have been discovered in this zone, one of them being 110 feet wide and 1200 feet long. Under the direction of R. K. Neill, a tunnel more than 400 feet in length has been driven on this ore body, also several crosscuts, one of them 90 feet long, without encountering the footwall. This carries good values, some of the ore assaying over \$1000 per ton in gold and silver.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1917

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$75,116,103; Lode Gold, \$93,717,974; Silver, \$43,623,761; Lead, \$39,366,144; Copper, \$130,597,620; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$10,933,466; Coal and Coke, \$174,313,658; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$27,902,381; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1917 show an

Aggregate Value of \$595,571,107

Production for Year Ending December, 1917, \$37,010,392

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

Full information, together with mining Reports and Maps, may be obtained gratis by addressing—

THE HON. THE MINISTER OF MINES
VICTORIA, British Columbia.