

Increase in production is derived chiefly from the Port Steele mining division, as is shown in the following table:

| Mining District— | 1907 | 1908 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Port Steele | 7,338,154 | 7,338,154 |
| Slocan | 4,506,826 | 4,506,826 |
| Almworth | 3,554,775 | 3,554,775 |
| Selkirk | 1,582,113 | 1,582,113 |
| All other districts | 699,795 | 699,795 |
| Total | 17,181,664 | 17,181,664 |

The output of copper for 1907 was 1,407,371 tons, having a gross value of \$3,166,544. This output is not quite as great as that of the preceding year, which is to be accounted for by the fact that the larger copper producing mines were only run for about nine months of the year, the smelters having been shut down, at least partially, for a month in the spring, owing to a shortage of the coke supply, while in the fall the drop in the price of copper, accompanied by the financial depression in the east, closed the mines for another two months. For the nine months the mines were in operation the output was greater than ever before for a similar period.

The most serious falling off in production has been in the cobalt district, which the greatest increase has been made in the Rossland camp, followed by the Nelson division, in a lesser degree.

The average assay of the copper ores of the various camps, based upon the copper recovery, were as follows:

| Camp | 1907 | 1908 |
|---|---|------|
| Boundary | 1.34 per cent copper; cost, 1.99 per cent, and Rossland 0.885 per cent. | |
| Other Minerals | | |
| There has been practically no iron ore mined in the province this past year, with the exception of some 1500 tons of bog iron mined and shipped from Quatino sound, which deposit is hoped to recover unprofitably, owing to its shallowness, was then abandoned. From the numerous known deposits of magnetite ore was shipped, although considerable work of a prospecting character, was done. | | |

The mining of zinc ore has been practically at a standstill. The Lucky Jim mine in the Slocan, shipped some 130 tons of ore, which had been mined during 1906, but no fresh mining from argenteiferous galena as by-product, but this ore has not, as yet, been sold or treated.

The zinc smelter erected at Frank, Alberta for the treatment of British Columbia zinc ores, has not, as yet been started.

The Canada Zinc Co., Ltd., has begun the building of a small plant at Nelson designed to treat the complex galena-zinc ores of the Slocan district by a process of electric smelting under the Bywater patents, whereby it is hoped to recover the lead and zinc in the metallic state, and also save the silver content with the lead. The electricity for the process is to be obtained from the Bywater falls. The tightening of the money market delayed the construction of the plant but the provincial legislature, at its 1908 session, advanced a loan of \$10,000 to aid in completing the plant. Platinum is known to exist in various parts of the province, associated with placer gold in alluvial deposits but has as yet been mined only in small quantities. On the coast, building in stone has become more general and several very good quarries of sandstone, granite, and andesite have been opened up on the coast. In a previous issue of this bureau a detailed description was given of the more important quarries.

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The fire brick plant at Comox, formerly supplied with clay from the Comox mines, has not worked lately, but the coal mines shipped some 488 tons of fire clay to be used in the manufacture of pottery.

At Clayburn near Vancouver, a very good deposit of fire clay exists, from which a good quality of pressed brick and fire brick is being made.

The Silica Brick and Lime company has built and is operating a plant near Victoria for the manufacture of silica bricks. The output of the plant for the portion of the year 1907 that it has been in operation was approximately 1,100,000 bricks. The brick is of a light gray color and serves as a front brick and is sold at about \$15 a thousand.

The manufacture of lime is carried on in a small way at a number of points, while at Victoria, on Saanich Arm, and elsewhere are kilns making a considerable output. The greater part of the production is made on the coast, where the limestone deposits are particularly pure, yielding a lime of exceedingly good quality.

The only company actually producing cement in British Columbia is the Vancouver Portland Cement Co., which works at Tod Inlet, on the Saanich Arm about 13 miles by road from Victoria. The company sold in 1907 some 143,826 barrels (350 pounds) of Portland cement, with a total value of \$215,000. Of this quantity 125,000 barrels were used in the province. The capacity of the plant now constructed and in operation is considerably greater than this output would indicate, as about 3,000,000 barrels could be turned out per year.

No successful, or very serious attempts have as yet been made in the province at drilling for petroleum. The railway country, which in all probability will be built within a couple of years to certain coal fields on the south coast of Michel creek and when this is completed, doubtless, some serious attempts will be made to develop the oil fields believed to exist in that section of the province.

BAD HEADWAY

(Special to The Daily News.)

OTTAWA, June 1.—During question time in the house today, W. D. Staples was informed that there was no order in council authorizing the House for medical fees from Transcontinental workmen's wages. The amount was only 50 cents monthly.

When the premier moved for morning and Wednesday evening's sittings for government sittings, Sproule objected, saying that it was a little early for the motion, especially with many members electing to leave for Quebec and Ontario. It was only fair the motion should stand over for a week.

The premier said that matters in which absentees were interested might be left over, but the extra sittings provided for the despatch of general business.

Borden and Foster objected to suspending the Wednesday evening sittings, but that several committees were not through with their labors, the latter pointing out that, with heavy government legislation, it would require at least three weeks.

Hon. W. S. Fielding compared parliament to a well organized factory which when crowded with orders, worked overtime.

Foster: "But this is not a well organized factory."

Fielding retorted it would be if the opposition recognized their responsibility. Throughout the session there has been a full supply of government legislation ready, and it was not the fault of the government that there had been poor headway.

Mr. Roche thought it unfair to propose morning sessions at this stage, with the opposition forces divided on committees, still sitting. He declared that if the government should drop some of the contentious measures and mentioned the Manitoba boundaries as probably contentious.

E. McManis, Pictou, said the opposition argued for lots of work, and he therefore would not stop working. He deprecated the tendency of the Ontario members to run down the premier's own business and delaying the house.

R. S. Lake moved an amendment that the motion should not apply to Wednesday next.

The premier expressed his willingness to withdraw that part of the motion dealing with Wednesday.

George Taylor, Leeds, resented the charge that the opposition were obstructing business, and added that they were willing to stay until Christmas rather than see Clause 1 and 17 in the election bill become law. He had been among his constituents and they were willing to persist in giving Mr. Pringle power to summons people to testify under oath. In answer to Dr. Sproule's query that parliament had ordered an adjournment, the premier said the opposition were still 32 columns ahead.

Finally Lake's amendment was agreed to and the house will sit mornings, but not Wednesday morning for the present.

Hon. G. E. Foster, again, on a question of privilege, challenged the statement of the minister of militia, averring that he (Foster) had been refused lands for the Union Trust company nor paid for lands with moneys of the Union Trust company, nor received a dollar of commission for the minister's statement was absolutely untrue.

Sir Fred Borden: "Since the honorable gentleman says my statement is incorrect and that he did not do the things I charged, I cheerfully withdraw the statements."

On motion to go into supply, colonel Hughes made a plea for duty on United States lumber, which new company in which Canadian lumber pays 2 per cent on entry into the United States. The lumber industry employed 75,000 men and wages had fallen \$35 to \$50 per month with a prospect of a further fall. It was a dangerous situation as he hoped the government would provide a remedy.

On a question of privilege, J. B. Kennedy, New Westminster, denied the statement made last Friday, that in the matter of Fraser, the defaulting sub-collector of customs at Huntington, he was overruled by the machine in the matter of prosecuting and restitution; the whole matter was left entirely to the government.

In committee, the G. T. P. branch lines bill was taken up. John Crawford, Portage la Prairie, said the amendment of Lennox and the sub-amendment by the minister of railways were unnecessary. They were not asked for by the company and should be dropped.

After some discussion, Hon. Wm. Pugsley said that as he understood it, the Lennox motion made it possible for the government to take over all paying branches at the end of 50 years. He thought this unfair and therefore moved a sub-amendment that if the government took over the main line it should also take over all branches.

Regarding the clause extending the construction of branches till 1918, R. S. Lake, Qu'Appelle, said there was considerable feeling in the west owing to the failure to commence the branches of the G. T. P. He urged the necessity of pressure on the company for early construction.

R. L. Borden pointed out that until the branches were constructed, important places, such as Regina and Prince Albert, had no direct connection with the G. T. P.

The premier agreed as to the importance of these centres being tapped, and he therefore thought the company could be depended on to build the branches without delay. The bill was reported and read a third time.

A. A. McLean, P. E. I., complained of the manner in which the revenue inspected tobacco factories. A Charlottetown manufacturer had been fined only \$200 instead of being prosecuted, and he, McLean, expressed the opinion that the lenient treatment accorded this manufacturer arose from the fact that he was president of the liberal association.

The house went into committee of supply at 10:30, taking up the customs estimates.

The house adjourned at 2:10 a. m.

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Continuing after luncheon, Mr. Foster summed up saying the government was acquainted with the real state of affairs and the investigation was a hollow affair when at last it was instituted.

Hon. Frank Oliver said that it did not matter what all statements of Pringle were true.

R. L. Borden—No, but they might be regarded as fair grounds for investigation.

Mr. Oliver continued, saying that an opportunity for investigation had been given but was ignored on a paltry lawyer's quibble. Pringle was mistaken in connection with the Treadwell concession, which was voidable and had been cancelled, why was he not mistaken in his other charges. Regarding the charges against Lithgow and Girouard, until a direct charge was made, he did not intend to give Mr. Pringle power to summons people to testify under oath. In answer to Dr. Sproule's query that parliament had ordered an adjournment, the premier said the minister said that was a matter of public policy, not affecting the private character of an official. A royal commission would not be appointed to inquire into the charges made by one citizen against another. He doubted if Yukon morals were worse than those of Ottawa or Montreal.

The minister asked for the clipping. The vote was still under fire when the house rose at 6 o'clock, after passing \$216,280.

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At a conservative caucus later it was decided to offer no unreasonable opposition to the militia estimates, which means that in all probability the error general. The minister said he had been away and received the letters simultaneously.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied stating that Pringle's letter showed him to be an earnest man, but one whose language and discretion could not commend themselves to him. Reviewing the letter of 1907, he said it was all vague statements and that for three years there were no complaints, a strong tribute to commissioner Ross whom Pringle condemned. Inquiry into the letter of 1905, in which he was charged with positive and special, was delayed by a change of the ministry of the interior. The letter of 1907 was the most important, accusing Lithgow and Girouard. The premier said that these two men were very good officers. Had Pringle come before the commissioner and the witnesses before to give evidence, then the government might have taken evidence on oath. Girouard had taken libel proceedings against Pringle, which had not yet been heard and meanwhile he had retired from the government service and the matter was no longer a public question, except to justify the government's course. The premier said he was willing to leave this to the judgment of the court.

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