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THE DAILY NEWS.

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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IS IT A GAME OF BLUFF?

While the railways and the government seem to be playing a game of bluff the country is seeking railway development to open up the country and to provide by legitimate means employment for the people who today are being meagerly fed by the various governments.

We need highways and the intimation that these will be provided just now is very important to the country and especially to Prince Rupert.

Over and above that the country needs proper railway service. It controls the Canadian National Railway and has an immense influence over the C. P. R. In view of this the people are expecting them to bring about the construction of the western Peace River outlet. Naturally, the federal government must be expected to give some aid in this situation. They cannot expect the railways to do all the pioneering. To take refuge now behind what are merely quibbles would show the government in a very weak aspect. If they are a strong government, they should bring about this needed construction and do it at once. If they are weaklings, they will avoid the issue and hold it over until a more convenient season.

People here look on it as a game of bluff. We also are wondering if all three parties concerned, the government and the two railways, may not be playing a big game of wait and see.

FORMER SECRETARY FALL

It seems a sad end to a member of the United States cabinet to have to spend a term in jail at the close of a life in which he has tasted all the joys and hardships of leadership. For eight years he fought the issue in the courts and it must have been eight years of hell.

Fall was convicted of accepting a bribe and his defence was that the money was a loan. The jury did not agree with him and all the higher courts confirmed the verdict. Now he goes to jail, an old man, broken and worn out with the conflict.

MAKE WORKING AGREEMENT

While it is scarcely likely that Prince Rupert would be willing to sell her telephone system to the B. C. Telephone Company, it would seem a reasonable move to try to make a working agreement soon with that company in order that local people might be in a position to use the radio-telephone system. Already the people of Ocean Falls can talk with Vancouver and it seems reasonable to think that Prince Rupert might do the same. It would be a great thing for business people to be able to take down the receiver and call up a business house in Vancouver and receive an immediate reply. While this system will never take the place of the telegraphs it may well supplement it. It is a modern convenience and under the pressure of business development may become a necessity.

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Gross Value of Mine Products For Six Months Ending June 30 Is Eighteen Million Dollars

Report of John D. Galloway Shows Prospecting Well Maintained and Distinct Revival in Placer Mining

The gross value of the mineral production of British Columbia for the six months ended June 30, 1931, is estimated at \$18,703,267 as compared with \$29,910,672 in the corresponding period in 1930.

This decrease of \$11,207,405 or 37 per cent is due to lessened output of all metals and minerals and much lower metal prices. Considering the utter demoralization of the metal markets and the severity of the world-wide business depression, it is satisfactory that British Columbia mining has made such a creditable record in the first half of the current year. Based on dollar value, production is running at 63% of the 1930 rate but in aggregate quantity output it is running at 84% of the 1930 rate. Both these figures compare quite favorably with business indexes in many lines.

Condition of Industry

In common with the whole world metal mining in British Columbia has been heavily affected by the current world depression. Low prices for all metals except gold have caused curtailment of production, closing down of mines and nearly profitless operation for the industry. Considering however, that British Columbia is mainly dependent on world markets to dispose of its metals it is remarkable and highly satisfactory that production has been so well maintained. In recent years the principal output has been from the Sullivan, Britannia, Premier, Hidden Creek and Copper Mountain mines, and of these only the latter has been closed down. Practically all the small silver-lead-zinc mines of the province closed down in 1930 and no change in this condition is to be expected until metal prices move considerably higher.

Offsetting the depression in silver and base metal mining, greatly renewed interest has been shown in gold-mining. While the production of gold shows a slight decrease, this was caused mainly by lowered output from the Premier, the non-operation of the nickel plate, and curtailment of copper mining resulting in less by-product gold.

Against these declines were increased returns from the Pioneer, Union and Reno mines. The healthy interest in gold mining at the present time has resulted in much further development of properties, which is expected to result in greater production in the future. The principal sources of the silver produced were the Sullivan and Premier mines, both of which were operating at a somewhat reduced rate as compared with the first half of 1930. During the period the Prosperity and Porter-Idaho mines were closed down owing to the low price of silver.

The closing of the Copper Mountain mine by the Granby Company and curtailed operation by the Britannia lowered the copper output, in accordance with the general curtailment agreed upon by the principal world copper producers.

*Almost all the lead and zinc production during the half year was from the Sullivan mine of the Consolidated Company. The lessened output shows the desire of the management to assist in the general curtailment of production of these metals tentatively being attempted by world producers.

The value of structural materials produced was nearly as high as in the 1930 half year, reflecting the fact that building and construction work were practically at a normal rate. The output of miscellaneous metals and minerals shows a decline in value of 32%. This branch of mineral production is subject to rather wide variations and it is quite likely the last half of the year will show an increase. During the period under review the initial unit of the fertilizer plant of the Consolidated Company at Trail was brought into production and an output of about 2,500 tons was made, the major portion of which was sold to the prairie provinces.

The larger mining companies accomplished drastic economies in order to keep costs down and very creditable results have been obtained in per pound costs of metal.

Coal Mining

Coal output has again declined but not at any greater rate than was to be expected on account of general conditions. Decreased railway traffic, industrial slowing down and lessened marine business, largely accounts for the drop in output which amounted to 17.6%. Lowered prices to the domestic

Development and Prospecting

As would be expected development of silver, copper, lead and zinc properties has slowed down considerably. The necessity of cutting costs and the absence of profits has compelled the large operating companies to reduce materially their scouting and development operations on new properties. On the other hand, gold mining has attracted much attention. Potential gold properties that have been dormant for years are now being developed and financing of other projects are being attempted.

New gold producers will be required in the province to offset the decline in output from some old mines that are near their end. Lode gold production during the last 10 years has averaged \$3,800,000 a year. The outlook is that this rate will be maintained in the future with possibly some increases.

Prospecting has been well maintained. Unemployment and the lure of gold—again a potent attraction—has resulted in many men going into the hills, with the result that more are so engaged than in 1930.

Placer prospecting has experienced a distinct revival and fair success is reported from several districts. Interest has been aroused by discoveries at Rainbow Creek, a tributary of the Nation River, about 80 miles north of Fort St. James. While reports are conflicting, it seems that some gold has been obtained and the area evidently warrants study and investigation. A considerably increased placer gold output is expected for the year, as a result of the widespread small-scale operations that are being carried on.

No important base metal discoveries have been reported so far this year, but the third quarter of the year is the most active prospecting season of the year.

Excellent prospecting opportunities still exist in the province and the department of mines will supply information along these lines to anyone desiring it.

North-Western District (No. 1)

Prospecting is fairly active generally throughout the district. In silver and base-metal areas it is lagging somewhat, but a marked increase and intensification in the search for both lode and place-gold deposits is apparent. No discoveries of importance have been reported. An increasing number of individuals are displaying interest in the possibilities of likely placer gold-areas.

The activity of examining engineers is not so marked as in 1930, although engineers of the larger operating companies are active in the field. B. Woodworth, associated with Noah Timmins has optioned the Whitewater group, Taku river. Exploration and development at smaller operations is still curtailed, although a fair average of assessment development is being carried out by individuals.

During the period, operations were suspended at the Prosperity and Porter-Idaho silver mines, and development was stopped on the Surf Point and Tidewater Molybdenum properties. Development of the B. C. Silver was stopped pending negotiations with the Premier Gold Mining Company. At the Big Missouri exploration and development have been carried on energetically, with conditions about the same as at the end of 1930.

Development on the Atlin-Pioneer Lead-Silver Mines has continued uninterrupted, and plans are laid for an additional expenditure of \$75,000 with the prospective continuation of operations through the coming winter and spring.

Development and exploration at the Hidden Creek mine of the Granby Company, and Premier mines are being carried on steadily. Production from these properties has been well sustained, with the Granby Company producing

about 2,800,000 lbs. of copper per month.

Increased activity prevails in the Stikine, Liard and Atlin Divisions in both lode and placer undertakings. In the Stikine River area the Barrington Company is installing a dredge on the North fork of the Clearwater river and expects to have it digging by the beginning of September. On Deass Creek the Casstar Hydraulic Mines Ltd. is working with a crew of twenty men. Several other operations are active, and an increased placer-gold output for 1931 can be expected from the Stikine-Liard Divisions.

The Atlin section is especially active, and exceptionally promising results are being achieved. On Oyster Creek, the Compagnie Francaise des Mines d'Or du Canada has struck rim and possibly the old channel; indications are promising for a continuous production from now on. On Ruby creek, Matson and Schulz picked up a nugget on July 3rd weighing 47 ozs., 13 dwt., (about 25 per cent of volume is quartz). Generally, exceptionally promising clean-ups have been realized all around and a marked increase in placer-gold production from the Atlin section is indicated for this year. Extensive road and trail improvements have been carried out by the Department throughout the district.

North-Eastern District (No. 2)

Owing to depressed base metal and silver markets, so far as operation by companies is concerned, attention has focussed almost entirely on properties essentially in the gold class, or containing important values in gold.

These include Columario Gold Mines, as Usk, the Glacier Gulch, near Smithers, Cariboo Gold Quartz Company, and several lode properties in Cariboo and Quesnel Divisions, and in the Manson section of Omineca Division.

Silver-lead-zinc mining has been inactive with the exception of the Babine Bonanza and Ferguson properties, where small scale work has been carried on.

In placer mining there has been a noteworthy revival of activity from which much is hoped. Not only is there evidence of much well directed corporate effort, but the prospector has been quick to realize the promise of a "grub-stake" offered by this class of mining. In the early part of the season before high water, the bars of the Fraser and Skeena Rivers witnessed much activity on the part of individual operators, and generally speaking prospecting continues keen throughout the placer sections.

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CANADA DRY


THE CHAMPAGNE OF GINGER ALES

Change System Of Government In South Africa

PRETORIA, South Africa, July 22—A scheme for electing the Governor-General of South Africa by popular vote, on lines similar to those by which the President of the United States is chosen, will be submitted to a party congress by Hon. P. G. W. Grobler, Minister of Lands. Mr. Grobler states. He is leader of the Transvaal Nationalists. According to Mr. Grobler's scheme the Governor-General or Staatshoof (Head of State) would select Ministers, and the Government would carry on for a stipu-

ted period entirely independent of the Legislature. An adverse Parliamentary vote would make no difference to the government's tenure of office. The plan is expected to attract support, because of its resemblance to the old Republican system of government. Mr. Grobler himself was a member of President Kruger's Ministry.

B. E. Morgan, manager of the Billmor Spruce Mills Ltd., returned on the Prince Charles this morning from a brief trip to Queen Charlotte City, to which point at the first of the week he accompanied his brother, John R. Morgan, well known logging operator, on his return to Cumshewa Inlet after a business trip to Ocean Falls and Vancouver.



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