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West Coast Ships Ore

Mine Boom Forecast

By SUSIE BIRD

TOFINO — A trial shipment of 10 tons of copper ore from the Burmont Group, Bedwell River, has been taken by Ucluelet Contracting Company to the Tacoma smelter.

The ore was mined from an open cut, sorted by hand.

The Burmont Group is at the head of Bedwell Sound, 18 water miles from Tofino.

Walter Guppy, Tofino, is owner and mine manager. He said, "Present plans are to mine a greater tonnage of lower grade ore by extending the open cut in length and depth."

The cut is now 70 feet long, four feet wide.

A stockpile of moderate grade ore is already mined. However Mr. Guppy decided against including it in the shipment, which was all high grade.

The moderate grade ore will be included in another shipment to the smelter.

The Burmont Group is under development by the Tofino Exploration Syndicate. He will form a company to finance further work on a larger scale.

The mining operation may eventually go underground at this site.

There are also plans for an exploration program.

Mr. Guppy has been interested in mining for many years. He staked the Prosperine Mine before the Second World War. That mine is now part of the group.

Tofino residents are interested in every advance in the mining field, because a mining boom would open the west coast of the Island.

Two wars have held up the Bedwell mining activity.

Before the First World War mines were opening in the area.

In the late 1930s the Musketeer Gold Mines and Buccaneer Mine were going ahead. Prospectors were flocking into the area.

The Second World War was accompanied by a shortage of men to work mines and by the pegging of gold, and mining activity was wiped out again.

The present high price of base metals has again sent prospectors looking for mines.

Among them is electrical contractor Guppy, who hopes this time, the interest will become a boom.