

1947 Expected to Prove BC's Biggest Mining Year

By HARRY GREGSON
Preliminary reports indicate that the mining industry in B.C. in 1947 set up a new record, says Hartley Sargent, Chief Mining Engineer, B.C. Department of Mines.

He estimates that the total value of principal metals produced (placer and lode gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc) increased by \$36,390,000 over the production in 1946, which was valued at nearly \$57,000,000.

Sullivan Mine Still Leads Field

It was due to the initiative of four men, Pat Sullivan and three associates, who, in 1892 were seeking their fortunes in Kootenay Lake District of British Columbia, that the Sullivan Mine at Kimberley, largest of its kind in the world was discovered.

In 1909 it was taken over by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Ltd., largest producers of non-ferrous metals in the British Commonwealth.

In 1914 the Sullivan Mine became the largest lead producer in Canada, a distinction which it still retains.

FIRST CLAIM
In 1890 claims were first located on the gold-copper lodes around which the City of Rossland rapidly grew and which brought southern British Columbia into prominence in the mining world.

During the next few years the camp developed rapidly, shipping its ore by wagon road to Trail Creek on the Columbia River and then by steamer and rail to Montana for smelting.

The first copper smelting plant at Trail was built by Augustus Helnze of Butte, Montana, in 1895.

IN EIGHT YEARS
In 1900, eight years after its discovery, systematic development of the Sullivan Mine was undertaken. During the three following years from four to five thousand tons of 35 to 40 per cent lead ore, carrying about 15 ounces of silver, were shipped to the smelter at Nelson and to Canadian Smelting works at Trail.

The Sullivan ore body is mainly iron, lead and zinc sulphides with the lead carrying an appreciable quantity of silver. The thickness of the vein ranges from 5 to 200 feet.

There are three tunnels through the mine but the entire production today is hauled through one tunnel, begun in 1915.

Gave Barometer

The B.C. Saturday Sunset, which was first issued from a basement on Hastings Street in 1906, and which exerted considerable influence until it died in 1915, once gave away barometers as circulation premiums.

One of these still hangs in the rotunda of the St. Francis Hotel.

Coal, miscellaneous metals, minerals and materials including structural materials showed an increase in value of \$1,210,000 bringing the total estimated 1947 production of these items to \$16,020,000.

HIGH PRICES
The great increase in the value of principal metals stemmed from the high prices for copper, zinc and especially lead. But another reason as regards copper and gold was that the production of these metals in 1946 was suspended for nearly six months because of the strike.

The high price made the value of 1947 copper (\$8,840,000) more than three times the 1946 value. The quantities of lead and zinc were considerably less than in 1946, but price increases more than made up for the drop in quantity.

Of the principal metals only for silver will the value for 1947 be less than the 1946 value.

SLIGHTLY ABOVE
As regards coal production, Mr. Sargent estimates that it will be slightly above 1946.

More men were employed in B.C. mines in 1947 and metal miners in moderate numbers came to B.C. from other parts of Canada. However many mines are still short of skilled miners. The Emerald Mine, Mr. Sargent's report continues, began the production of tungsten concentrates in the Nelson mining division.

NEW INTEREST
High prices stimulated interest in silver-lead-zinc camps and exploratory programs began in 1946 were continued in the Sloan camp while additional companies entered the field.

Production was resumed at the Kicking Horse mine of Base Metals Mining Corporation. Salvage of ore from the dumps of the Giant at Spillimacheen was undertaken, work designed to bring into production the Toric silver property at Alice Arm continued.

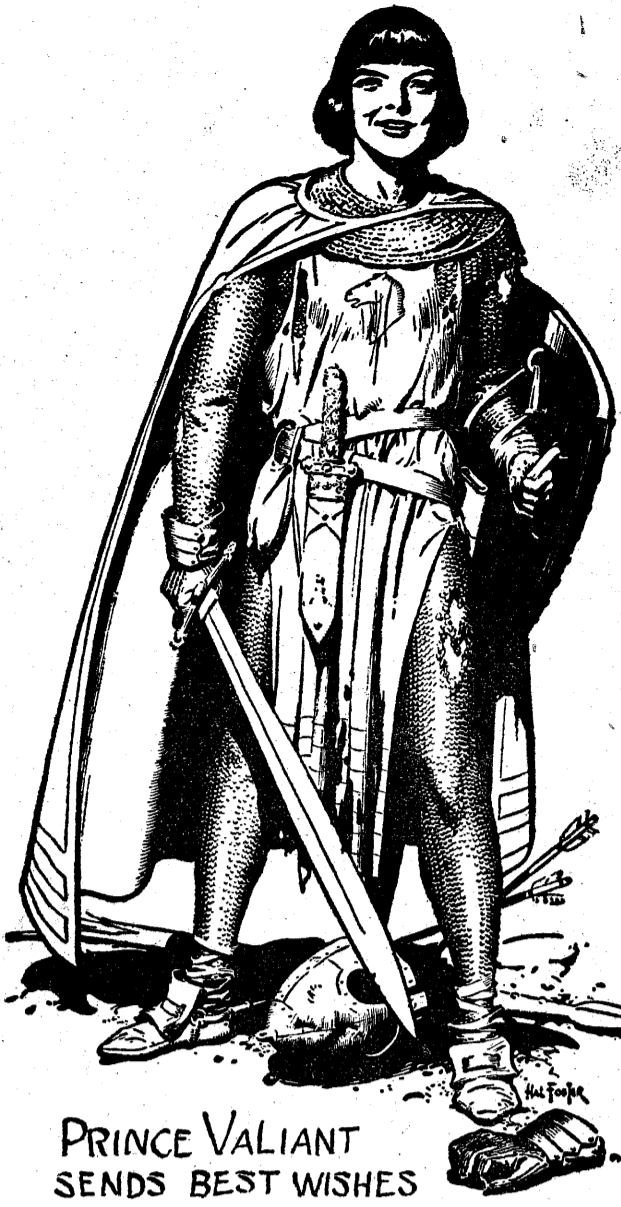
The Polaris Taku gold mine was operated throughout the year . . . the first full year of operation since 1942.

This mine produced in 1947, 26,842 oz of gold, valued at \$939,461, placing the company third among British Columbia's gold producers.

At the Cariboo Gold Quartz mine the main shaft is being enlarged to permit increasing production.

BIG DEVELOPMENT
Willia Creek Gold Quartz have made plans for an extensive development program, the first phase of which is expected to cost \$270,000 and which will ultimately cost \$800,000.

The recovery of placer gold in 1947 is expected to be less than in 1946. Placer mining was much less than usual in the Atlin area and, with one exception, did not increase materially elsewhere.



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Interior Mines Now Lead In Provincial Coal Output

Discovery of coal in 1835 on the B.C. coast at Squash and later near Nanaimo, was from information given the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company by the Indians.

The first attempts at mining were made in a relatively small coal area and, had the Douglas seam at Nanaimo not been found in 1850, would have been inadequate to supply the commercial demands that sprang up after the discovery of gold.

The coal mining industry gradually became centred at Nanaimo and mining at Squash was discontinued about 1853. For many years Nanaimo remained the principal colliery and the centre of the coal trade until the construction of railways on the mainland brought practical operation mines in the inland fields.

NEARLY THIRD
Even in 1946, which was by no means a record year for coal production, Vancouver Island collieries produced 547,468 tons, or nearly one third of British Columbia's total coal production for the year, amounting to 1,463,640 tons.

Most important of the Vancouver Island mines are Comox Colliery No. 5, and No. 8 mines, the South Wellington No. 10 and the White Rapids mine.

South Wellington No. 10 mine, in the Douglas seam, maintains its position as the chief producing mine in the Vancouver Island District. The Douglas coal seam is contained in the so-called Newcastle formation, which underlies a belt extending across the area of the Nanaimo sheet, from northern Newcastle island, through the city of Nanaimo and town of South Wellington to Ladysmith.

INTERIOR MINES
Position of the Vancouver Island coalfields as main B.C. producers has been taken since the development of railways on the mainland by the mines in the East Kootenay district, which account for approximately one-half of B.C.'s total coal output.

In the last year for which complete figures are available the East Kootenay mines produced 862,669 tons of the total annual production of 1,463,640 tons. Main producer in these mines is the Michel Colliery, with the Elk River Colliery in second place. Coal was discovered in the Crownsnest as far back as 1882, but not till the advent of the railways could it be developed. Approximately one quarter of the production in the Crownsnest area goes to the USA and about 400 men are constantly employed in the mines.

Pioneer, Bralorne Famed Names in Mining Circles

Throughout the gold producing history of B.C. two names frequently occur . . . Pioneer and Bralorne.

They represent two of the greatest gold producers in the province.

Pioneer and Bralorne are close to each other. The township of Lorne, from which Bralorne derives its name, has experienced many vicissitudes.

The property was optioned by Messrs. Stobie Forlong in 1928 and gold mining was carried on until January 30, 1930 when it ceased with startling suddenness. At first it was believed that the shutdown would be short and some families stayed on in Lorne, helped through the worst periods of unemployment by provincial road construction work.

WORK RESUMED
Work at the mine was resumed in 1931 by the Bralco Syndicate. There were frequent visits to the property by the principal members of the Bralco Syndicate, among them Austin Taylor, president; George Kidd, W. Boulbee and Neil McQueen. At about this time the property became known as Bralorne, being a combination of the name of the financing syndicate and the original name of the mine.

Bralorne became a producing mine in April 1932 when its first gold brick was poured in the early morning at the blacksmith shop.

NEARLY ONE-SIXTH
Since 1931 the Bralorne Mines Ltd., have paid more than \$14,000,000 in dividends. Five years ago it could claim to have paid nearly one-sixth of all the dividends earned by all the lode gold mining companies in the province since 1897.

Bralorne is a property which has justified the optimism of its promoters. Ore reserves are estimated at more than 1,000,000 tons averaging 0.503 ounces per ton.

Pioneer was surrounded with romance almost from its earliest days.

Only a decade ago it was offered without a bidder for the meagre sum of \$100,000; the present stock market quotation is around \$5,000,000.

The nucleus of the present Pioneer property was staked by

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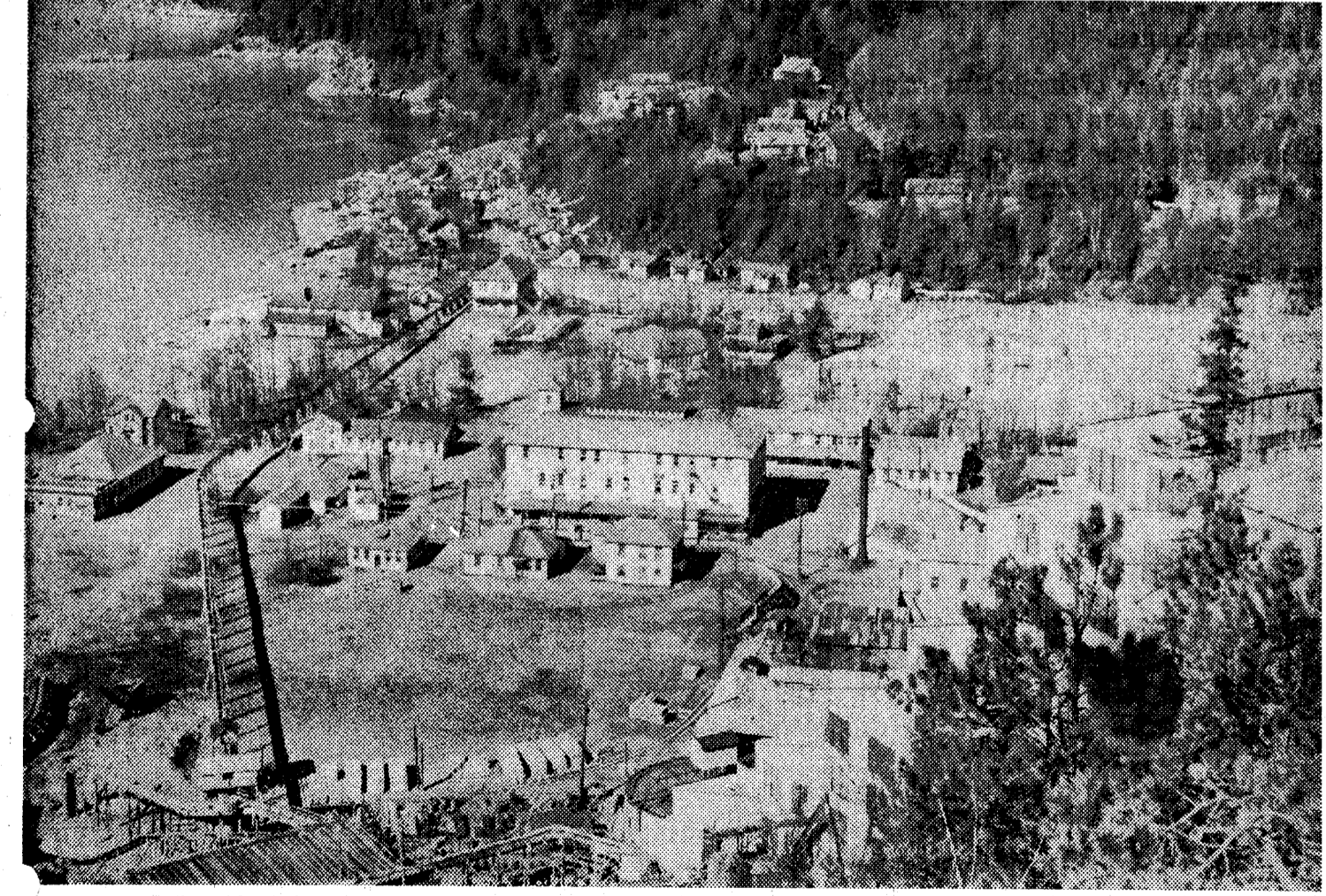
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OUR greetings and best wishes to The Vancouver Daily Province on completion of fifty years service to the people of British Columbia.

Shortly after The Vancouver Daily Province started business, several small mining companies and a smelter combined to form The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited. Thus the lives of a great mining company and a great newspaper have paralleled one another. Both faced similar trials and problems. Both knew success. Both rejoiced with the people of British Columbia when times were prosperous and both strived to maintain employment levels, morale and faith in Canada, when times were not so good. There is a common bond among those who have grown up and matured together, and there is a pardonable pride in achievement. It is our sincere wish that The Daily Province will continue for many more years to render its valuable service to the people of British Columbia.

THE CONSOLIDATED MINING & SMELTING COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED
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Britannia Mine Beach Camp
A new mining system, an increased payroll force and a new union agreement are among recent developments at Britannia Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd.'s property on Howe Sound.

Britannia is B.C.'s biggest copper mine and one of the British Empire's greatest. In 1947 alone, despite shortages of labor the mine produced 14,000,000 pounds of copper.

The centre of activity at Britannia Mine, whose workings go deep underground and high above sea level, is the Beach Camp, pictured above.

The picture provides a comprehensive view of the camp. In the upper right are shown some dwellings. At left centre is the gymnasium, the local theatre and the recreation hall alongside the tennis court. To the right of the tennis court is the school and behind it are church buildings.

In the centre foreground to the left is the general office and to the right of the tailing launder is the dining room. On the two upper floors of the Britannia Stores, the largest building, are rooms for single men. To the right is a dormitory and change houses.

The three smaller buildings in the foreground are, from the left, the research metallurgical laboratory, the assay office and the hotel annex. The building with the high stack is the central heating plant for servicing the buildings in the centre of the camp. In the immediate foreground to the right is the concentrator which has a capacity of 6000 tons a day. It is now running an average of 2800 to 3000 tons daily.

In 1947, tonnage treated totalled approximately 750,000, with a recovery of 14,000,000 pounds of copper, 4,000,000 pounds of zinc and 19,000 tons of Pyrite. From the mine precipitation plant were recovered 800,000 pounds of copper.

Underground workings are now being mined by a recently-developed system, using diamond drill holes as blastholes, instead of the former large power blasting methods. Detachable bits have taken the place of conventional steel. The use of slushers in ore-drawing underground has been increased.

The total payroll was increased during the year from 603 to 738 but lack of experienced underground workers and absenteeism handicapped operations.

In November last year a new union labor agreement was signed. The agreement, which came into force on October 21, increases the base rate of pay \$1 a day and guarantees one copper bonus of 25 cents a shift for the life of the one-year agreement. And, at the price of copper existing at the time of the agreement, there was an additional copper bonus of 75 cents a shift for all employees. This made the miner's rate at October 21, and since then, \$9.10 a shift on day shift, with shift differentials of three and five cents an hour for afternoon and night shifts.

Cash awards were made for good ideas arising from safety talks at labor-management committee meetings held monthly at the Beach and Mine camps during 1947.

Executive personnel changes last year included the resignation of C. P. Browning as general manager after 34½ years with the company. He was succeeded as manager by E. C. Roper, formerly mine superintendent and assistant manager. T. M. Waterland became mine superintendent and L. Allan his assistant.



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Since the dawn of history man has practised the ancient art of brewing. He learned early that from golden grain that gave him bread he could also derive a friendly, nourishing beverage. From the dwellers in the Valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates the Egyptians learned the art. And from Egypt the knowledge of brewing spread to Greece, then Westward to all Europe. It can be said that the use of beer (a purely malted beverage) has long been world-wide wherever man grew grain.

The blossom of the hop vine, first used as an essential ingredient of beer in Flanders, was adopted by English brewers in the sixteenth century and at once won public favor. Hops contribute to beer a tonic as well as a flavoring characteristic, a refreshing savour.

Almost the first commercial enterprise established in Canada was a brewery built in 1668 in Quebec. It was founded primarily in the interests of temperance.

Brewing today is no less an art, but the application of a number of important scientific discoveries, including rigid sanitary regulations, has established brewing also as a science. The whole process of converting "wort" (the sweet malt solution from barley) in which hops are boiled into beer by fermentation is carried out with scrupulous care in pure air and under constant temperatures.

The beer brewed in British Columbia is a wholesome beverage, refreshing and invigorating. And in the varied fields of agriculture, industry and commerce, the brewing industry of British Columbia plays a significant role. It purchases large quantities of barley, it has made possible a flourishing hop-growing industry in the province. It contributes heavily to the civic, provincial and federal treasuries, it provides large and regular primary and secondary payrolls. Through taxes, employment and purchasing power the brewing industry of British Columbia contributes millions of dollars to our economic life.

THE BREWING INDUSTRY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

