Torbrit at Alice Arm Bright Industrial Spot

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McRae Bros. Ltd. Interest High in Northern Mi Despite Difficulties of Gold Interest High in Northern Mines

The search for minerals in central and northern British Columbia, bedevilled in past years by a depression, a war, and finally labor trouble, is, nevertheless, making a comeback that may restore it to its crest of the roaring '20's. This is particularly applicable to base metals which are enjoying the fruits of a more or less free market.

searing production costs and the causing losses which made the inexorable pressure of a con- need for richer veins inevitable. trolled price, has taken a body Then, last June came demands blow that in the last 10 months for higher miners' wages and on has caused two producing mines July 15, the mine closed. to barricade their portals. What the future holds for gold mining isolated, high-cost location in in the north only time can un-

But silver is a different story. With that metal buoyed pleasingly at about 70 cents an ounce two mines are in production in the central part of the province, with exploration and development work going on in several

Twice within the last year, producing gold properties have halted their operations when demands for higher miners' wages threatened to tilt profit margins into a red ink bottle. In PLACER MINING the case of Silbak-Premier, a IN ATLIN DISTRICT

vacation.

Gold, however, caught between grade ore had already been

Polaris-Taku, situated in an the northwestern part of the province, was a 300-ton a day producre until April 15 when a strike vote by its 150 miners closed it up.

There are, however, innumerable placer gold operations in the area between the 54th parallel and the Yukon boundary and while only a few of these are producing during the summer, a considerable increase in activity is expected this year. Last year, most of the work on placer properties was on the upper Stikine.

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venerable, and for many years, In the Atlin district, there was the only producing mine in the considerable small scale opera-Portland Canal district, low tion last season. Work was limit-

ed to placer mining, with about DEVELOPMENT 50 men employed on the creeks. DEVELOPMENT Some 10 claims were active, two of them using monitors, one on IN THIS AREA Boulder and the other on McKee

In the Cassiar placer field, Mocassin Mines Ltd. has probably the biggest operation on McDames Creek, not far from Lower Post. The company holds some 30 miles of placer ground on the creek, but large scale operations are hampered by lack of a road connection with the Alaska Highway. Seventy miles of new road are needed to complete the connection.

latter 30 men and both are in pre-production stages.

In the Portland Canal district, nine properties are creating interest, not counting the nowdormant Premier mine. Most remote of these is the Unuk Ltd., which was discovered in 1946. So far, this is still in the ner Canal, it would have diamond drilling stage.

is the Morris Summit property freighters a source of cargo on Summit Lake, eight miles north of the Gulf of Georgia. from Big Missouri. Other prop- In that case, Prince Rupert's erties in this area are Tide Lake, grain elevator might work again Silver Tip, Unicorn, Indian, Big and mixed cargoes of forest Four, Stewart Gold Mines Ltd. products, fish, grain and aland the Hansa Group. Some of uminum might move from the these have gold content, notably north coastal ports of British Stewart Gold Mines Ltd., while Columbia. others are composite ores with silver, lead and zinc.

Torbrit Silver Mine is the brightest star on the horizon of the whole district. Indeed it is the major producer of central and northern B.C., or very shortly will be. In 1947, this subsidairy of the Mining Corporation of Canada built a road 18 miles from the village of Alice Arm on Observatory Inlet im order to freight in supplies to the mine properties, 13 claims which formerly were the Toric mine of the Britannia Mining Co.

During 1948, a 300-ton concentrator was built, a main-haulage railroad constructed from the mine to the mill and a new cross-cut tunnel driven as the mine prepared for production.

The mill, which went into production early this year, has a capacity of 300 tons daily. A refining plant already has sent three shipments of refined silver to the United States. Its ore is primarily silver with some

HAZELTON MINE SHOWS PROMISE

Near Hazelton is the Silver lose plant at Port Edward. Standard mine, a silver-zincof a 50-ton flotation mill. De- use as insulation material. velopment work produced 1,654 MORE OPTIMISM tons of ore last year, most of IS PREVAILING which was stockpiled. Last year, On the whole, while mining in

it employed 50 men. tions were suspended for the come into its own.

Other properties in the Omineca district are the Cascade FOR BETTER musical engroup on the Copper River and joyment have your piano tun-Nicholson Creek mine, near Usk. ed regularly.

Two small limestone quarries are in operation along the coast south of Prince Rupert and a third may be developed in the | Prince Rupert near future. The Beal quarry in

Vancouver Editor Sees Big Things for Prince Rupert

Howard T. Mitchell, prominent Vancouver publisher and former Vancouver Board of Trade president, describing the industrial outlook in the north, forecasts that present day developments will affect northern and central British Columbia to a greater degree than hitherto. He asks the reader to consider In the northwestern part of Prince Rupert and its hinterthe province, near Polaris-Taku land, picturing it as built on are two properties, Tulsequah rock like St. John's, Newfound-Chief and Big Bull, both owned land, and St. John, N.B., and by Consolidated Mining and with what he calls marvellous-Smelting Co. The former has ly fresh air. He tells about the been employing 35 men and the coming of the Celanese Corporation and the creation of a manufacturing payroll. Prince Rupert will find its water and rail transport situation improved by this acquisition of a first line industry so close to its own harbor and terminus.

If the projected new alumin-River mine of Kalport Mines um industry comes to B. C., he writes, and goes as far as Gardstimulating effect on Prince Probably the most advanced Rupert, since it would give

POPULATION IS In the Alice Arm district, NEARING 10,000

Prince Rupert's population nearing the 10,000 mark. Latest estimates put it at well over 9,000. In 1946, it was placed at 8,200 on the basis of ration cards. In 1941 the last decennial census showed the population as 3,714.

Only two natural harbors in the world excel that of Prince Rupert. One is Halifax, Nova Scotia. The other is Sydney. Australia.

Gunboat Pass, six miles east of Bella Bella, and the Koeye River Quarry, six miles south of Namu produce for Pacific Mills at Ocean Falls. The rock is used in paper production.

Columbia Cellulose Co. did some test drilling on the north side of Smith Island, at the Skeena River mouth last year. Three diamond drill holes, totalling 600 feet, were drilled in a limestone deposit and the cores sent out for analysis. If suitable, quarry will start sometime in 1950 and the rock will be stockpiled for use in the cellu-

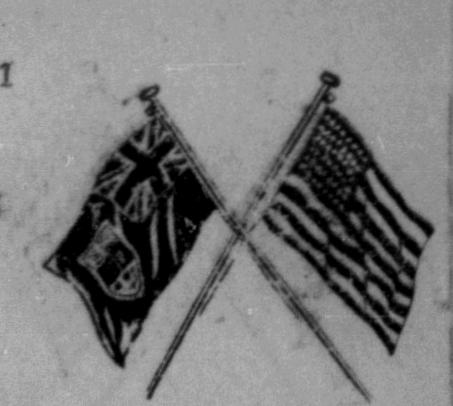
On the shore of Francois Lake, lead-gold property that is show- 20 miles south of the town of ing promise. The company owns Burns Lake, a large deposit of 40 claims on Glen Mountain, six perlite has been discovered and miles by road from Hazelton. will be exploited by Western First located in 1910, the mine Gypsum Products Ltd., which is has been operated intermittent- building a plant at Calgary. Perly since. It was re-opened in lite is a volcanic glass, similar January, 1947, by the present to pumice, although its particles company and brought into pro- are spheroid, while those of pumduction in 1948 with construction ice are granular, and is ideal for

the district cannot be said to Cronin - Babine mine, near be booming, it is enjoying a Smithers, formerly the Cronin, spirit of optimism which is aided is a silver-lead-zinc proptrey on by high prices in practically which work began last August. every field except gold. As the Sixteen men were employed in need for new mineral discoveries preliminary work until opera- grows, this erea cannot help but

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