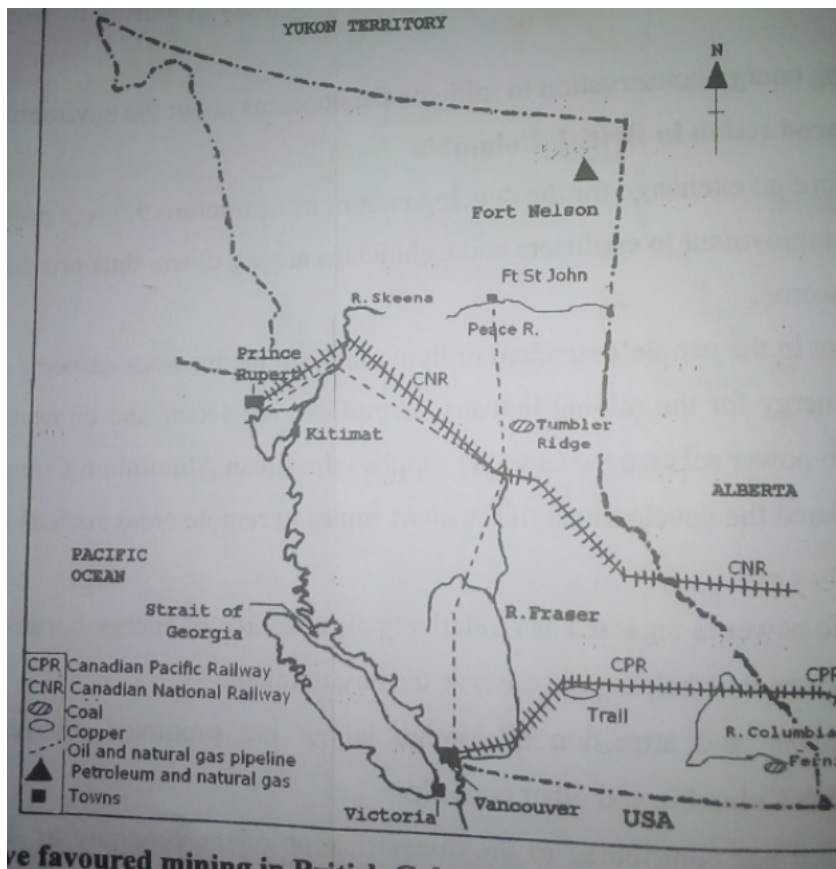


MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mining refers to an economic activity which involves the extraction of minerals from the earth crust. British Columbia is not very rich in minerals but mineral deposits it has are coal, zinc, copper, oil, natural gas, silver, iron ore but they are exploited in small numbers.

Coal, copper, natural gas and oil however are the major minerals exploited in southern British Columbia. The major mining centers in British Columbia are prince George, Tumbler ridges, Dawson Creek.

SKETCH MAP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SHOWING MINING CENTRES AND MAJOR RAILWAY LINES.



FACTORS OR CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE FAVOURED THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF MINING INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Physical factors.

* presence of large water bodies around British Columbia e.g Pacific ocean which provides water used to cool the mining machines

* Presence of favourable climatic conditions in British Columbia e.g ice free seasons that favours smooth running of mining activities e.g oil drilling throughout the year

* Presence of numerous rivers in British Columbia e.g skeena, Fraser which are used to generate HEP to run mining machines in mining centres e.g Dawson Creek.

* Variety of valuable and commercial mineral deposits e.g coal, iron ore, natural gas which has helped mining industry to compete on world market.

* Large extensive land in British Columbia e.g in prince George, Tumbler ridges which is used to set up mining centres and to expand mining industries.

* Presence of minerals near the Earth's surface in British Columbia which make it easy and cheap to be extracted. Eg using of open cast method.

Human factors.

* Skilled labour in British Columbia e.g mineral surveyors, drivers, mine managers who have helped to do work in mining industries.

* Sufficient capital in British Columbia e.g from government and investors which has been used to pay workers, taxes and buying machines used in extraction of minerals in mining industries.

* Efficient and reliable transport networks in British Columbia e.g railway lines, roads which are used to connect mining centres e.g Dawson Creek to market areas.

* Favourable and supportive government policy in British Columbia e.g tax holiday, issuing of mining license to companies which have helped to attract investors and market to mining industry.

* Presence of wide and ready market in British Columbia e.g domestic and international levels eg Europe, Asia which has helped to buy mineral products.

* Advanced and modern technology in British Columbia e.g pipe lines,exavator which have simplified work and production in mining industry.

* Sufficient power supply in British Columbia e.g HEP generated from rivers like r.fraser which is used to run machines in mining industries.

* Intensive mineral research in British Columbia e.g on market control, extraction control which has helped to improve on quality of mineral production.

* Political stability in British Columbia e.g police that keep law and order which has attracted investors and market to mining industries.

* Presence of many mining industries in British Columbia eg in prince George, Tumbler ridges which help to process mineral deposits into quality products.

CONTRIBUTIONS/IMPORTANCE/BENEFITS OF THE FISHING SECTOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

* It has provided employment opportunities to the people of British Columbia e.g mineral suryvers, Managers, drivers which has earned them income.

* Mining has provided raw materials to industries e.g mineral processing industries e.g iron and steel industries which has been used to manufacture other products e.g metals.

* It has generated revenue to the government of British Columbia which has been used to development infrastructures like roads, schools and hospitals.

* Mining industry has promoted infrastructural developments in British Columbia e.g school roads which have improved standards of living in British Columbia.

* It promoted diversification of the economy in British Columbia e.g setting up of mining centres national wide which has reduced on over depending on few sectors in British Columbia.

*Mining sector has promoted urbanisation in British Columbia e.g through infrastructural developments like roads this has led to development in the country.

* It has promoted foreign exchange and currency in British Columbia e.g with Europe, Asia which has helped to settle international debts and infrastructural developments.

* Mining industry has promoted international relations between British Columbia with others like Europe Asia which has helped to promote peace and unity in the region.

* It has provided market to others sectors in British Columbia e.g engineering industry which has helped others sectors earn income for development.

* Mining industry has promoted the development of others sectors within the economy in British Columbia e.g tourism which has encouraged development in British Columbia.

* It has promoted education and research e.g Universities and colleges in British Columbia which has helped students to acquire knowledge and skills about mining Field.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MINING SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

* Exhaustion of some valuable mineral deposits e.g iron ore which leads to their extinction

* Unfavorable climatic conditions e.g winter which interrupts mining activities hence limiting production.

* Competition from other countries dealing in mineral products e.g Europe Asia which leads mining sector to losses and limits production.

* High costs of transport in British Columbia e.g oil pipe lines which is expensive to construct and maintain hence high spending of mining companies.

* Limited skilled labour in mining sector this has made work and production difficult in British Columbia's mining sector.

* Unsupportive government policy e.g high taxation in British Columbia which has discouraged investors and market to mining sector.

* Occurrence of accidents while carrying out mining activities in British Columbia which has caused injuries and death hence discouraging production.

* Political instability especially from strikes among miners discourage investors and market.

* Labour migration to other sectors e.g fishing which has slowed and discouraged the mining activities.

* Low levels of technology e.g duplicated machinery which make work and production difficult in mining sector.

* Competition within the economy with other sectors e.g fishing which leads to underfunding of mining sector by the government and labor migration hence limiting production.

WAYS OF IMPROVING OR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FORESTRY SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*Mechanisation such as use of machines should be used to solve the problem of shortage of skilled labour.

*Use of protective equipments like helmets,coloured clothes to minimize the occurrence of accidents on waters.

*Use of other sources of energy e.g solar HEP to solve the problem of over production and mineral exhaustion.

*Construction of modern transport networks to easy the transportation of mineral products to market centres e.g pipe lines.

*Modern advertisements to compete on the world market with other countries.

*Use of advanced technology to solve the problem of low levels of technology.

*Intensive research on mineral issues to improve on the quality of production and getting of market.

* Improvement on workers conditions in mining to solve the problem of labor migration.

PROBLEM RESULTING OR CAUSED BY THE MINING SECTOR TO THE HUMAN AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Problems on the Human environment.

✓ Accidents occurrence during extraction of minerals leading to injuries and loss of lives.

✓Labour migration in other sectors leading to labor shortage in other sectors eg fishing.

✓ rural urban migration which leads to over population in the mining towns.

✓ Displacement of people leading to creation of unplanned settlements eg slums.

✓ Regional imbalance in the country which leaves mining towns more developed than other town without minerals.

✓ urban related problems like prostitution which increase high crime rates in mining towns.

✓ profit repatriation by foreigners which leaves the country underdeveloped.

Problems on the Physical environment.

✓ Pollution by mining industries in form of air,water, sound and land pollution which cause diseases to the living organisms in the environment.

✓ Exhaustion of mineral deposits due to over production.

✓ Destruction of natural vegetation that leads to increased soil erosion, global warming.

✓ Open cast method creates pits and depression on the Earth's surface which act as breeding areas for mosquitoes causing disease to people.