## METALS FOR MUNITIONS

### Twenty-five Per Cent. More Lead Production Last Year—Imports Were Larger

Although there was an increase of nearly 25 per cent. in Canada's production of lead the 1915 output has been exceeded in six of the past 15 years. The production of lead in 1914 was 45,377,065 pounds, which, valued at 5.60 cents per pound, the average price of pig lead in Montreal for the year, would be worth $2,541,116. The production in 1914 was 36,337,765 pounds valued at $1,627,568, or an average of 4.479 cents per pound. The 1915 production consists chiefly of pig and manufactured lead produced at Trail, B.C., but includes also an estimate of the lead probably recoverable from ores shipped to smelters outside of Canada. The entire output of the Surprise mine in the Slocan District, B.C., was shipped to the United States, refined in bond, and sold in London.

**Exports and Imports.**

The exports of lead in ore, etc., in 1915 are recorded by the customs department as 1,845,100 pounds valued at $40,273, and of pig lead 2,066,929 pounds valued at $79,067. Exports in 1914 were 246,100 pounds of lead in ore and 510,573 pounds of pig lead.

The total value of the imports of lead and lead products in 1915 was $2,479,261 as against $1,042,538 in 1914. The 1915 imports included 42,616,200 pounds valued at $2,010,006, manufactured lead 3,102,838 pounds valued at $184,581, other manufactures valued at $102,439, litharge 1,579,800 pounds valued at $89,232 and lead pigments 1,709,035 pounds valued at $93,003. The imports of litharge and pigments would contain approximately 1,565 tons of metallic lead and the total import of lead would therefore exceed 24,425 tons as shown by this record. The imports in 1914 were equivalent to about 10,869 tons.

**Markets and Prices.**

The average monthly price of lead in Montreal varied between a minimum of 4.27 cents in January and a maximum of 6.61 cents in December, averaging for the year 5.60 cents. This is the producer's price for lead in car lots as per quotations furnished by Messrs. Thos. Robertson and Company.

The average monthly price of lead in New York was 4.628 cents and in London £22.917 per gross ton, equivalent to 4.979 cents per pound.

**Zinc Refineries Get Contracts.**

Complete returns of zinc shipments have not yet been received, but the tonnage is estimated at 15,553 tons containing 12,400,000 pounds of zinc. Shipments include several hundred tons from Notre Dame des Anges, Quebec, but the greater part is from some fifteen properties in British Columbia. Zinc shipments in 1914 were reported as 10,893 tons containing 9,101,460 pounds of zinc.

The Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company at Trail, B.C., after successful experimental development has installed at Trail a zinc recovery plant, having an initial daily capacity of 35 tons of refined zinc, and has entered into a contract with the shell committee for a considerable tonnage of zinc to be delivered during 1916. Mr. J. McLeish, of the department of mines, states, that a small quantity of zinc was recovered during 1915 in connection with the experimental work.

The Electric Zinc Company has constructed a plant at Welland, Ontario, for the recovery of refined zinc from zinc oxide. It is intended, eventually, to treat the zinc ores from Notre Dame des Anges, Quebec, at this plant.

At Silverton, B.C., a demonstrating plant, using the French process for the recovery of zinc, was operated during 1915 and satisfactory results are claimed.

**Government's Bounty.**

In August the Dominion government made an announcement with respect to a proposed bounty on zinc as follows:—

"Bounties on a sliding scale not exceeding two cents per pound will be granted upon production in Canada from Canadian ores of zinc containing not more than 2 per cent. impurities, when the standard price of zinc in London, England, falls below £33 per ton of 2,000 pounds, provided that bounties shall not be payable on zinc produced before the expiration of the war or after the 31st day of July, 1917, or on zinc contracted for by the shell committee at a price of 8 cents or over per pound. Total amount of bounty to be paid not to exceed $400,000."

The price of spelter in New York varied between a minimum of 5¾ cents per pound in January and a maximum of 25 to 27 cents in June, the price at the close of the year being from 15¾ to 16¾ cents and the average for the year 13.230 cents per pound.

The price of high-grade spelter rose from 10 cents at the beginning of the year to over 40 cents in midsummer, and was maintained fairly strongly through the balance of the year at from 35 to 40 cents.

## "SUCH FAVORABLE TERMS"

### No Other Country in the World Could Borrow Upon Them in the United States, Says Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor

"Without hesitation or reservation I express the opinion that the terms of the Canadian government loan now before the American public reflect the greatest possible credit upon Canada. It is indeed an achievement to have floated this loan at a price that in view of its magnitude cannot properly be criticized by the most captious. No other foreign country in the world could borrow on such favorable terms in the United States." So said Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, in an interview regarding the new loan.

"As it is only one man in thousands who follows market conditions, but as every citizen of the Dominion is concerned, it may be of public interest to give my reason for this emphatic statement.

"In opening negotiations in New York for a loan of this nature, the government was obviously faced with two outstanding influences, each with a most important bearing not only upon the amount procurable in Wall Street, but upon the price of the loan."

Sir Frederick then stated that the first influence was the discount at which the Anglo-French issue stands, an adverse factor for all borrowers in the United States market.

**Better Than Domestic Loan.**

"Second," he continued, "in comparing the New York loan with our recent domestic loan, we find that the former, i.e., the New York loan, has been floated at an average of 5.36 per cent. interest basis yield to the investor, as compared with 5.48 per cent. interest basis yield to the investor in the case of the domestic loan. In other words, the Dominion of Canada floated in a foreign country in time of war a loan three times as large as the largest loan the Dominion ever attempted in the London market at .12 per cent. better than our recent $50,000,000 patriotic loan.

**As to Tender System.**

"There is another point Canadian provincial and municipal borrowers can note with advantage, and it is this: The lay mind, not unnaturally, asks why the government does not resort to the tender system. The answer is, they know better. Experience long ago taught important and continuous borrowers throughout the world that there is no form of finance more expensive in the end than loans sold, as it were, by public auction. A striking example, per contra, is that of the Canadian Pacific Railway, whose 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock has long enjoyed one of the broadest markets on the London Stock Exchange, and at prices to make many European nations envious. This result has been achieved not merely because of the high intrinsic merit of the securities, but because each sale by the company has been effected by negotiation and not by competitive process.

**Got the Happy Medium.**

"In other words, it is the best of policies—not to drive too hard a bargain—to strike a happy medium between what is termed a right price and an attractive price. This clearly is what the Dominion government have aimed at in this instance, as in previous instances in London, and the result of the public issue will doubtless prove that Sir Thomas White's judgment has been good.

"This loan will in the natural order of things contribute towards correcting New York exchange, which has been adverse to Canada for many months."