

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Efforts are being made to bring about a return to conditions as nearly normal as shall be found practicable in connection with the production of silver and lead bearing ores, particularly in the mining divisions of West Kootenay—Ainsworth, Slocan, and Nelson—that are most seriously affected by the interruption to production following disorganization of the metal markets consequent on the outbreak of war in Europe. Following the vigorous steps taken to prevent a continued interruption to silver mining in Ontario, Mr. Lorne A. Campbell, M.L.A., of Rossland, general manager for the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., in whose electoral constituency is situated Trail, the headquarters of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada's lead smelting and refining and copper smelting industry, actively interested himself in an energetic movement to minimize the unfavorable results of a stoppage of mining operations at a number of mines in the several divisions above mentioned. After having been in communication with the Premier of British Columbia, who is also Minister of Mines for the Province, Mr. Campbell proceeded to Victoria. The following information relative to his visit to the capital of the Province was published in the Victoria Daily Colonist of August 27:

"Strenuous efforts are being made by the mining interests of British Columbia, particularly those in the Kootenay districts, to devise ways and means to meet the new situation as a result of the war, and insure that the producing properties of the country shall not have to discontinue mining operations. To this end several conferences have been held during the last two days between Sir Richard McBride and Mr. Lorne A. Campbell, M.L.A. for Rossland, representing the mining interests of Kootenay.

"In explanation of the position of the silver-lead mining industry, Mr. Campbell said: Prior to the outbreak of war, the mines were in good condition and there were but few clouds on the industrial horizon of the Kootenay districts. With the war and the immediate collapse of order in the financial markets throughout the world, came the disruption of the metal markets, making it impossible to get quotations or ascertain the market value of metals. This situation only revealed an opportunity, as a result of the war, and it is this new position that is now being surveyed.

"Just prior to the outbreak of war, Great Britain secured all the available lead supplied open to purchase. It is assumed that she is still in the market for all the lead she can get. The silver-lead mines of British Columbia produce comparatively very little silver, but they do produce a considerable quantity of lead, which can be refined in the Province. It is to this phase of the matter Mr. Campbell is now engaged in directing the attention of both the Federal and Provincial Governments. His idea is, roughly, that the Federal Government should purchase what silver is produced in British Columbia and make what other arrangements shall be necessary to insure that the mines shall not be closed, to the end that the lead which Great Britain requires shall be supplied in some quantity by the mines of this Province. The question is one which involves many considerations, but Mr. Campbell has received such assurances from Sir Richard Mc-

Bride as lead him to be hopeful that the problem will be solved satisfactorily."

It is of interest in this connection to note that in 1913 the silver-lead-zinc mines of Kootenay districts produced, according to official figures approximately 2,800,000 oz. of silver, 55,000,000 lb. of lead, and 6,758,000 lb. of zinc.

Ainsworth.

Mining is being continued on a number of properties in this division. During four weeks ended Aug. 27, 1,854 tons of ore from local mines was received at the Consolidated Co.'s smelting works at Trail, chiefly from the company's own mines, the Highland and No. 1.

At the Silver Hoard mine 12 men are employed, and ore is being taken out. While operations are on a smaller scale than had been intended they should be, the Spokane owners of this property are continuing work with fewer men rather than close the mine. As soon as custom ore shall again be received at Trail shipment will be resumed; meanwhile the ore taken out as development proceeds is being stored at the mine.

Work has been discontinued at the Eureka mine, near Sproules, a stopping place on the Kaslo & Slocan railway. The crosscut adit that for some time was being driven under contract did not open any ore. A few men have been sent from Kaslo to the J. L. Retalack & Co. property near Whitewater to work there for a while, but it is unlikely they will remain there many weeks.

Boundary.

Granby Consolidated—President Nichols, of the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Co., Ltd., has issued to shareholders in the company a circular letter, as follows:

"We suppose that no shareholder will be surprised to learn that the directors of the company have unanimously decided to defer action on the question of a dividend under the unprecedented conditions prevailing at this time, when there is no market for refined copper.

"It seemed plain that working for a large output which could not be sold would be very unwise, as it would only postpone the time when normal prices might be resumed. Accordingly the works at Phoenix and Grand Forks were closed on August 7.

"The entire energies of our staff are now concentrated at Anyox, where metal recoveries and value are much higher than at the old mines and smelter.

"The problems involved in accomplishing the most efficient and profitable handling of our business in this new field can now receive the undivided attention of the management.

"If this interval of reduced activity, made necessary by the war in Europe, can be utilized to place the company in position to reap the greatest possible advantage from improved conditions, when they arise, the company will accomplish the most that could be wisely attempted. The spirit of the management is admirable, and every effort will be made to convert the temporary conditions, for which neither the property nor its management is in any wise responsible, into permanent benefit to the company."