

The remaining 75 per cent. of the monthly average of lead receipts will be stored until a market has been found for it.

It is pointed out that the mines will in two ways get some relief from the situation created by the lack of munitions market by means of the plan of settlement for 25 per cent. and the storing of 75 per cent., with loans from the banks on the amount stored. One benefit is that settlement will be made for the full silver contents of the ore on the basis of the circular of Nov. 5. The other advantage is that the operators will be able to keep down their relative overhead charges per ton of ore. If they could ship only 25 per cent. of last year's monthly average production their overhead charges would be virtually the same as if they shipped the full 100 per cent. Under the plan proposed they will be able to work on the 100 per cent. basis. There will, mine-owners point out, be some increased cost owing to the necessity for financing on the 75 per cent. of lead which will be stored, but it is calculated that the cost of this financing will be more than overcome by the lower overhead charges and the fact that normal production can be maintained throughout the year.

Just how the proposal will work out will depend, it is pointed out, upon the length of time which elapses before the munitions situation demands an increased supply of lead. It is not believed that this will be long, as the United States is making great efforts to speed its preparations for war. Directly they are under way those in close touch with the mining industry and the metals situation look for a renewal of the big demand for copper, lead and zinc.

Canada has already received big orders for high explosive shells. These, however, do not consume lead. It is orders for shrapnel that are needed and are expected directly the United States gets its war preparations more thoroughly organized and a big force of men into action. It is no secret that the number of American troops in France at the present time is not large as armies go in this war. It takes time to train new armies and to equip them and the artillery which will support them in battle.

The coal output for November in the province aggregated 234,414 tons, compared with 230,996 tons in October. November's production was the second largest monthly output of the year. Vancouver Island produced by far the largest portion, the coast district being 141,048 tons; Nicola, 16,618 tons; and Crows Nest Pass district, 76,751. For the first eleven months of the year the total output for the province has been 2,196,898 tons. Last year's total figures were approximately 2,400,000 tons.

A Revelstoke despatch says:

"Word has come of a big strike on the property of the Mastodon Mines in Laforme Creek. Eight feet of what is described as practically solid ore, carrying good values in silver and lead, has been struck in a crosscut on a 110-foot level. This is one of the biggest strikes ever made in the northern Kootenay, and has doubly renewed the confidence of mining men in the resources of the district north of Revelstoke. Next season promises to see much mining activity in the north country in silver, lead and copper.

"David Woolsey has bonded his Silver Creek property to eastern capitalists. The deal was completed this week. Bond holders have supplies in and are putting a crew of eight men to work for the winter. R. A. Grimes, manager of the Dunvegan mines, has let a contract for another 100-foot development tunnel on the Dunvegan property."

Important developments in which the interests in control of the Ladysmith smelter are largely interested have taken place within recent days involving the future development of a number of promising mineral properties on Vancouver Island and notably those located in the East Sooke district, where most favorable showings have been made by a number of copper holdings in which Victorians are interested.

The smelter interests have been on the look-out for sources whence an ore supply might be obtained to secure continuous operations of the smelting plant at Ladysmith independent of the business in smelting customs ores. The negotiations now under way whereby holders of small properties will be benefited include acquisition by the smelter company of large interests in properties which have given evidence of their values. In the East Sooke district in and around Mount Meguire, several properties have been bonded by the smelter people.

The Ladysmith smelter, formerly owned by the Tye Copper Company, of London, was acquired some months ago by interests, at the head of which is Mr. G. Seiberling, president of the Gooderich Rubber Company. With him are associated a number of wealthy men from the United States. The smelter, after extensive additions, is now operating, but not to the capacity its present owners desire. This week a representative of the Seiberling interests will reach Victoria with a view to going fully into the situation, especially with the view to extending the operations of the smelter and, it is stated, to reorganize the undertaking.

The Spokesman Review, Spokane, prints the following of the Highland Valley mine:

"Copper-bearing ore in a body 13 and a half feet wide has been struck by the Highland Valley Mining and Development Company, according to President Keffer.

"The copper content is 4 to 5 per cent. said Mr. Keffer. The body is composed of chalcopyrite and micaceous gangue which has been the general ore characteristic throughout the mine except for some quartz in a few places.

"The discovery was made at a depth of 130 feet, the greatest yet attained in the property. The ore was reached by a winze, sunk 50 feet from the tunnel level. It has a width of 13 and a half feet on the floor and of 11 feet in the roof. Its width on the tunnel level is eight feet. The width of the ore is exceeded at but one place in the mine and that at the junction of two veins opened on the tunnel level. The ore is 17 feet wide there. The face of the drift on the winze level is 45 feet from a point under the 17 foot ore body.

"At a point in the tunnel 400 feet from its portal, we came to a large fault which threw the ore 100 feet off its original course. The fault has been penetrated and the ore body recovered. The shoot has been followed 25 feet where it has a width of three to six feet and a copper content of 6 percent.

"The company purposes engaging in a development campaign with a view to opening as much ore as possible by spring. If the development proves ore in a sufficient volume the capacity of the mill, which is 50 tons, will be at least doubled. The installation of an aerial tramway, 4000 feet long and the construction of four and one-half miles of road is proposed. This will reduce to seven or eight miles a haul of 30 miles to the railroad.

"The mill produced 150 tons of concentrates in October. The copper content ranged from 20 to 24 per cent."

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