

The following table gives a comparison of shipments made during the last two years:—

	1916. Tons.	1917. Tons.
Centre Star	163,000	37,431
Le Roi group	130,000	50,464
Josie group	15,800	7,777
Velvet	124	...
White Bear	...	1,540
Totals	308,924	97,212

The Mountain Chief Group.—This property is situated at Renata. A considerable amount of prospecting has been done, disclosing irregular ore-bodies in a limestone formation. The average value of the ore is \$14 a ton, the values being in copper and silver.

TRAIL SMELTER.

The unstable conditions of the lead market in Canada, brought about by the Imperial Munitions Board being unable to place any more lead orders, caused the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company to take drastic steps in the beginning of October to curtail lead-ore shipments to the smelter.

A circular letter was sent to all the shipping properties, informing them that lead ores containing more than 4 per cent. zinc would not be acceptable to the smelter. This meant the closing-down of numerous properties and the outputs of others being greatly diminished.

The situation had such serious aspects that a meeting of mining men was called at Nelson on October 24th to discuss the matter with the representatives of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, who finally consented to accept shipments after November 1st. This meant the immediate resumption of shipments, and everything appeared to be running smoothly, when a strike was called on about November 15th, and the smelter was again forced to close down until the middle of December. At a meeting of the lead-mine operators and the officials of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, held at Nelson on December 27th, the company agreed to again accept shipments on and after February 1st, limiting the amount to be shipped each month by the various mines to the average of last year's monthly shipments. The silver contents and 25 per cent. of the lead contents will be settled for according to the terms specified in the circular issued by the company on November 5th. The remaining 75 per cent. of the lead contents will be stored and settled for only after the lead now on hand has been sold. As far as can be ascertained, the present situation will continue to exist until more lead is required for munition purposes.

Revelstoke Mining Division.

BIG BEND DISTRICT.

Mastodon.—This property is situated on La Forme creek, which enters the Columbia river nineteen miles north of Revelstoke. During the year a good trail has been built for a distance of six miles to connect the mine with the main trail up the Columbia river. Development-work, which has been actively carried on through the year, will be proceeded with during the winter months. About 20 tons of ore is sacked and ready for shipment. A sample of the ore sorted for shipment carried the following values: Silver, 30.8 oz.; lead, 60 per cent.; zinc, 7.6 per cent. J. W. Evans, the manager, reports that he is well satisfied with the season's operations, and that recent development-work has disclosed a nice showing of ore near the shaft and at a depth of 110 feet below the surface. New cabins have been built at the mine. Six men will be employed this winter.

Montgomery Group.—Situated on Downie creek, which flows into the Columbia at a distance of thirty-six miles north of Revelstoke. The property consists of eight claims and is owned by J. C. Montgomery, of Revelstoke. The Granby Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company hold an option on this property, and during the summer had a gang of men stripping and trenching the surface. From reports received there is a large showing of pyrrhotite, carrying values in copper and gold. No definite information is to hand as to whether the Granby Company will continue the work next year or not.

The Government road which is being built up the Columbia river to the 10-Mile post is now completed to the 16-Mile post, and is already proving to be a great benefit to the miners and prospectors in the Big Bend country.