tial that a new schedule should be applied to ores received for treatment. Following this "Schedule B." was issued imposing higher rates on lead ores. Considerable dissatisfaction was manifested by operators and mining men generally and the company became the subject of such criticism that the matter was taken up by various public bodies, among them being the Board of Trade for Eastern British Columbia. Representations to the Dominion Government at Ottawa finally led to the endorsation of the proposal that an investigation be instituted and the Committee as indicated had been authorized to proceed with the work.

The inquiry had been pushed forward with all possible expedition and the Committee had been given every possible assistance by the officials of the Company. Mr. Fowler emphasized this point. It was a matter of satisfaction to him that the company's books had been thrown open to the members of the Committee without reserve and nothing withheld.

The conclusion reached was that the company was justified in the increases enforced at that time. It had been justified, in the Committee's opinion, because it was shown that the smelter had not been making a profit. What profits were made were coming, not from the smelter, but from the mines, the property of the company and operated in connection with the smelter. There had been a time, it was true, when the smelting as such had been profitable. That was when there was available, close in and around the plant, ore of exceptionally high quality, among which could be instanced that of the Saint Eugene Mine. This, however, had become exhausted and conditions had gradually and completely changed. With the exhaustion of this mine it had been necessary to develop some permanent source of supply of ore for the smelter, a source which could be depended upon. The smelter management considered that it now had accomplished this in the Sullivan Mine.

Then there were to be considered the increased costs both of material and of labor. But, aside from the question of costs, as the market quotation on silver began to go up the quantity of zinky silver-lead ores received for treatment increased. The ratio of lead to zinc for satisfactory smelter handling should be about 9 to 1 in the slag but this, it appeared, was far from being the situation in which the company found itself. Their action, under the terms of "Schedule B.", made its effect felt in 1918 and on September 30th of that year it was found that the ratio of zinc to lead in the ores received had been reduced by approximately 50 per cent. It followed that the conditions in the furnaces and generally were much improved. Metallurgical experimentation with these ores had been in progress in the interim and, as a result, he was able to state that the company now was engaged in the preparation of "Schedule C." which, he understood, would mean a reduction of about $3 a ton on the average custom ore treated. This meant approximately $120,000 a year. He would not say that the company was giving it to the operators, or to those to whom it would go. The company could afford to take this action, or else it would not undertake it. But it was an evidence of its good faith. He thought the new schedule would be effective as from the 1st of July and believed that the change would be appreciated by the mining fraternity of Eastern British Columbia.

Remarks by Smelter Officials.

Mr. Bingay, of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, said that he thought it was generally understood in 1918 that when the smelter solved its zinc trouble those ores which had been affected by the increase would have the load relieved. There seemed, he said, little appreciation of the fact that at the time these increases were announced there were decreases in charges on certain class of ore used for the reducing of large zinc contents. With improved metallurgical methods, and the use of these diluting ores, it was possible to state that another schedule was in preparation which would be issued very shortly and go into effect without delay. He was not prepared to go into details. These were to be discussed and decided upon at a meeting between himself, other officials of the company, and the members of the investigating committee. There was no doubt, however, that there would be reductions. It was the intention to inform each shipper to Trail by letter of how the proposed changes would affect his particular class of ore, so that all would know just where they stood and there would be no reason for misunderstanding.

General Manager Suggests Co-operation in Marketing Zinc.

Mr. J. J. Warren, the Company's General Manager, made a plea for closer co-operation between the company and the shippers of the Province. He said that Mr. Blaylock informed him that the company would be producing shortly 75 tons of zinc a day. The Canadian market was 40 tons a day. What was going to happen to the other 35 tons and what was to become of the product of the independent shipper? There was only one solution, namely, the search for foreign market and the acceptance of lower prices. The point could not be evaded. It was the company's policy to share fairly and evenly the Canadian market with the independent man, and it wanted the latter to show a willingness to share with it the loss resulting from the lower prices obtained outside the Dominion. It was the same with regard to lead and copper. This was a reason why he thought it in the interests of both to come together for a discussion of matters generally relating to the industry. There not only was the question of market but other common problems such as duties, embargoes, labor, etc. All of these, and many others, affected both the company and the independent shippers. It was in their interests to get together and to co-operate. Now that the company had been given more or less a certificate of good character he thought this might be arranged. He did not favor Government ownership and did not think it would be a good thing for the industry to have a Government official, who probably knew nothing about it, at the elbow of the management giving instructions as to how the smelting should be done. The company was not going to be satisfied until the Trail plant was made the best of its kind on the American continent in point of efficiency and of service. It was faced with all manner of difficulties. The attaining of such a goal would require the patience of a Job and the persistence of the Devil. But the company had them both. (Laughter.) "Now," he concluded, "I have presented the olive leaf, or rather the olive tree, you may accept or reject it."

Nicol Thompson, of Vancouver, B.C., and R. R. Bruce of Windermere, commended the Committee on its work. They also endorsed the suggestion that the Committee should be made permanent. That such was proposed had been indicated by Sidney Norman, of Spokane, in the course of a few remarks in which he expressed his gratification at the conclusions reached by the investigators and hoped that the Government would continue in office a Commission, the duties of which