council objected to the legislation proposed by the province of Manitoba to bring the jitneys under the operation of the public utilities commission. They are a public utility in the ordinary sense of the word, just as much as the street railway, and the intention of that act was that all public utilities should be under the jurisdiction of the commission. In view of all that has taken place the company has concluded, and is justified in concluding, that the city is encouraging the jitney competition and seeks to financially embarrass this company.

"I am, therefore, instructed by the directors to notify the city that as this unfair competition is being encouraged by the city the company must take a firm stand to enforce its rights.

"Unless the council takes immediately steps to carry out its part of the contract the company will be obliged to consider refusing to pay any further sums as percentages of gross revenue, as taxes on the cars, or as pavement charges, and in any event will insist that the city reimburse the company the amount lost through jitney competition during the period this competition has been permitted by the city. This loss amounts to at least $1,000,000.

"The company has always provided for the citizens of Winnipeg a first-class, efficient street railway system, and one that ranks high with other systems on this continent. The direct result of permitting the jitney competition to continue will be to so financially embarrass the company that it will not be able to keep its system efficient and up-to-date, and will not be able, due to inability to procure additional capital, to make extensions to the system generally, and will not be able to provide the citizens of Winnipeg with efficient and up-to-date transportation which it has always heretofore done."

The record of the Calgary bull sale for one morning last week was 103 bulls sold in two hours and twenty minutes for $28,205, or an average of over $276. This beats all previous records of auction sales of bulls in western Canada, and has few equals in the Dominion.

SMELTER'S METALLURGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The enterprise of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company enables British Columbia to boast of the world's greatest metallurgical plant, where five metals are electrolytically refined from hydro-electric power; of the only lead smelter and refinery which produces the whole of the lead output of Canada, amounting to about 50,000,000 pounds annually, derived from British Columbia mines; of the largest producer of gold in British Columbia; of the first equipment in Canada for the economic production of zinc by electro-chemical process; and of the first electrolytic copper refinery in Canada, says the Mining and Engineering Record.

"The arrangement entered into with the Consolidated to supply zinc at a certain figure was responsible for breaking the corner in this metal which had been established by United States producers, and in this one item alone has been responsible for the saving of at least $10,000,000 to the Imperial Munitions Board."

INDICTMENT OF PAPER MANUFACTURERS

Five executive members of the Newsprint Association have been indicted by the United States federal grand jury at New York on the charge of having violated the Sherman anti-trust law by entering into a combination to limit the output of and increase the price of newsprint. Those indicted are: Messrs. George H. Mead, chairman of the executive committee of the association, and president of the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills, the Lake Superior Paper Company, and of the G. H. Mead Company, of Dayton, O.; Philip T. Dodge, president of the International Paper Company; Edward W. Backus, president of the Minnesota and Ontario Power Company and of the Fort Frances Pulp and Paper Company; George Chahoon, jr., president of the Laurentide Company and manager of the Canada Export Paper Company; G. H. P. Gould, president of the Gould Paper Company and the Donnacona Paper Company. The other defendants are: Messrs. Alexander Smith, a banker, of Chicago, and Frank J. Sensenbrenner, vice-president of the Kimberly-Clark Company, paper manufacturers.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN ONTARIO

Compensation paid to injured workmen by the Workmen's Compensation Commission of Ontario during 1916 amounted to $2,423,385, an increase of nearly $900,000 over 1915. Activity in industries stimulated by the war and more complete reporting of accidents explains the increase. The annual report shows that the commission in 1916 provided for 16,192 workers or dependents. Of the 16,192 accidents, 256 were fatal, 1,418 permanent disability, and the rest temporary disability. In addition, there were 7,672 other accidents reported, which, by reason of the disability lasting less than seven days or for other reasons, did not come under the act. The report records prompt disposal of cases, the average time for sending the first cheque after the receipt of the necessary reports being six days.

There are 15,200 employers contributing upon payrolls of approximately $183,000,000 annually. The report shows that the 1916 rates were about sufficient to meet requirements. Retroactive adjustments up and down will be made in some cases. There will be, it is said, little or no general increase for 1917 except to meet the new medical aid provisions which become effective July 1st.

The commission also plans to adopt a merit rating system to reward by lower rates employers who take safety precautions and keep down rates.

The report claims that the administration cost was only 4¼ per cent. in 1916.

German insurance companies may continue to transact business in the United States, according to a proclamation issued by President Wilson, notwithstanding the fact that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. The larger German companies, ever since the break in relations, had pressed for a definition of their status in the event of war, and it was decided to issue a formal proclamation guaranteeing against interference. The companies' assets must remain in the United States.