

LEAD.

Lead has been somewhat unsatisfactory, unsettled advices from the seaboard having somewhat demoralized the market and dealings have been chiefly of a retail character. The first week of the month sales were made on a basis of 3.92½c. in St. Louis, 4.05 New York, and the following week prices further declined to 3.85, 3.87½ St. Louis, 3.97½ c. New York. By the middle of the month a better tendency however prevailed, and rather a better business was done at 3.85c. St. Louis, 4c. New York for common lead. Our latest quotations are 4c., 3.97c. New York. The average price for August (New York) was 4c. as compared with 3.84c. for the same period 1897.

SPELTER.

This market has been very brisk and consumption has been remarkably good. A fairly large business has been done for both September and October shipments at 4.65c. St. Louis, 4.85c. New York, the latest quotations being 4.61 New York.

COPPER.

Although the copper market has, in marked contrast to last month, been dull, prices have remained firm and producers have not shown any willingness to give way in prices, Lake copper fluctuating between 12¼ to 12½, and electrolytic 11.90, 12. It is not likely that there will be any further decline and next month should show a better tendency. The average price last month, 11.89.

The value of British Columbia exports to the United States for the year to September 1897, is placed at \$147,637.

THE STOCK MARKET.

DURING the month of September mining stocks have been active, but in many cases western brokers have been unable to fill orders as eastern brokers bid figures at which sellers did not feel disposed to sell.

In the Rossland district Jumbo shares went up from thirty cents to sixty cents in twenty-four hours, owing to a rich strike in the tunnel at a depth of 350 feet from the surface. Grand Prize has been very active as the company is almost to resume work and the shares advanced in a week from two and a quarter cents to five cents. The company has sold 100,000 shares of treasury stock and

work on the mine will begin at once. This property adjoins the Deer Park and has, it is asserted, the Deer Park vein. Virginia has fallen from \$1 to seventy-five cents, and Iron Mask from \$1 to eighty-five cents.

White Bear and Silver Bell shares have been in good demand, and there has also been good enquiry for Deer Park and Iron Colt.

Other stocks moving have been Gopher, Home take, R. E. Lee, Novelty, Giant and Alberta.

In Lillooet district the feature has been the great drop in price of Golden Cache shares, and we hear of stock being offered as low as eighteen cents and of sales having been made at twenty-five cents. This is in part due, of course to the alleged theft of 800 ounces of amalgam from the safe at the mill, the loss forming the greater part of the clean up recently made. However, the fact of the robbery in itself would not be sufficient to cause the present withdrawal of confidence in the property and that there is something beyond to account for the big Golden Cache slump is very apparent.

In Coast properties Van Anda shares have been active, and all the cheap blocks have been bought up. There are very few parcels that can now be purchased under 5½ cents, and most of the Victoria shareholders would not sell under 10 cents. The mine never looked better than it does to-day, and important developments are expected to take place in the near future.

Albarni Consolidated shares have been selling more freely again, and it is generally believed that the deal will be made with the English Company holding the option. If so, the present shareholders will receive 10 cents per share in cash and a quarter interest in the new Company's stocks.

In the Fairview Camp Smuggler shares have been active, and there has been considerable enquiry for Winchester scrip.

Slocan stocks have been quiet, with some enquiry for Dardanelles, work at this mine having been resumed. Noble Five has also been enquired for.

In Nelson Division many large sales in Athabasca, Dundee, Tamarack and Nelson Poorman are reported.

In Revelstoke District considerable enquiry has been made for Carnes Creek shares, owing to the excellent reports from this property, assays running \$230 per ton in gold.

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