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ZINC.

We note that the London price of spelter has risen steadily until latest quotations are £24 2s. 6d. per ton. This is very gratifying to the zinc ore producers and is due to several causes, chief among which are the daily increasing uses of zinc and its products, and the gradual decrease in the supply of spelter on hand in the United States for export.

The zinc industry in the Missouri field has taken a new lease of life and the producers are looking forward to a revival of the prosperity and general good times of 1905 and 1906 and the early part of 1907. During that period the miners received from \$50 to \$58 per ton for 60 per cent. zinc concentrates, and the lead market reached a maximum of \$88 per ton. This latter price, of course, was somewhat inflated owing to certain peculiar phases of the metal market, but nevertheless the ore producers profited by these conditions.

Ontario and British Columbia have several zinc prospects which could be converted into shipping mines if smelting conditions were altered. At present British Columbia is exporting a raw material of high grade, and the country as a whole is gradually increasing the volume of its refined zinc imports. The British Columbia ores could be largely supplemented by the product of Ontario mines if smelting conditions were favourable. We already have the ore. We should be getting our share of the benefits due to gradually increasing interest in this important industry. Let the Government act.

PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Repeatedly have we called attention to the fact that amongst certain mine owners there is a decided disinclination to make public the facts concerning the physical condition of their properties. Generalities cannot take the place of specific data; nor can glittering hopes do duty for actual statements of fact.

In our last issue we had occasion to reprint from a contemporary a very sane article touching on the Porcupine boom. For this we were called to task by a local paper. Certain figures were quoted to show that one mine, the Hollinger, is in an extremely favourable position. Had this answer come from the manager of the mine, we would have accepted it without qualification. Unfortunately no official statement has been issued by Mr. Robbins. This is unwise and regrettable. Mr. Robbins' reports when he was manager of the McKinley-Darragh mine at Cobalt, were models