SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The following information relative to the use of Canadian lead—which means British Columbia lead—was contained in a press despatch sent out from Victoria toward the end of October: "Hon. J. D. Hazen, acting Minister of Militia, has telegraphed Hon. W. J. Bowser, acting Premier of British Columbia, that hereafter Canadian lead will be used in the manufacture of bullets for use by the Canadian troops. The decision follows representations made to the Federal authorities by Mr. R. F. Green, M.P., who represents Kootenay district in the House of Commons, and it is expected to provide for a market for a considerable quantity of the chief metallic product of the lead and silver-lead mines of southern British Columbia. Some days previously Hon. Mr. Bowser had received from the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Trail, a telegram which read: 'In respect to the matter of purchasing American lead for the manufacture of bullets, we have had conferences with Mr. R. F. Green. Would it be possible to have specified that such bullets be made of Canadian lead?' The message was sent on to Hon. Mr. Hazen, who promptly replied that a favorable decision had been reached and the Government had instructed its inspectors to see that hereafter only Canadian lead shall be used for this purpose. Speaking of the matter, Mr. Green said: 'This decision is very satisfactory and will tend to steady mining conditions in the Kootenay districts. I hope it will be the forerunner of a business development in respect to the products of the lead mines that will ultimately place the lead mining industry on a firm basis.' "

While this development is encouraging, it appears that the way is not yet clear to a resumption of production of lead bearing ores in similar quantity to that reached before the interruption that resulted from the demoralization of the metal markets following the recent commencement of war in Europe. The press despatch above quoted was dated October 28; on October 24 the Rossland Miner published the following comment: "The proposals of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, Ltd., for settlement of purchases of silver-lead ores have not met with acceptance of Slocan mine owners, with the result that none of the Slocan mines appear on the list of shippers at present. The change to New York quotations for settlement of lead content of ores is not considered so favorable as the London quotations formerly in use, and objection is taken to the additional 4 per cent. deduction for such lead content. No doubt an effort will be made to arrange these points of contention to enable the silver-lead mines to resume shipment of ores." It may be added that since the Consolidated Co. obtains by far the larger part of its lead bearing ores from its own mines, it is hardly to be expected that it will go out of its way to benefit owners of other mines, especially under the condition that to all intents and purposes it has a monopoly of lead smelting operations in British Columbia, and can virtually dictate terms to those who find themselves compelled to either send their lead ores to its smelting works or cease production of ores, the chief saleable content of which is lead."

In connection with this subject of production of lead, it is of interest to note that in his Preliminary Report on the Mineral Production of Canada during the calendar year 1913, the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources and Statistics, Mines Branch, Department of Mines, Ottawa, gave information relative to the production of lead, of which the following notes are a part:

"The total smelter production of lead in 1913 was 39,468,729 lb., but this includes lead from American ores and lead contained in scrap, etc., re-smelted, the recovery from Canadian ores having been 37,662,703 lb., valued at $1,754,705, an average of 4.659 cents a lb., the average wholesale or producer's price in Montreal for the year. In 1912 the production was 35,753,-476 lb., valued at $1,597,554. The shipments in 1913 were practically all from British Columbia mines, though a small production is reported from Ontario and Yukon Territory. The mines of British Columbia were very active during the year, and the total lead content in ores shipped is estimated at slightly in excess of 54,000,000 lb. Allowing for 'lag' and the losses due to smelting the increased difference between ore content and smelter recovery would indicate that a considerable amount of lead ore was in stock at the close of the year."

West Kootenay.

Ainsworth.—The only mine in Ainsworth mining division from which ore was received at Trail during four weeks ended October 28 was the J. L. Retallack & Co. property at Whitewater.

From the Kaslo "Kootenaian" it is learned that at the Cork-Province group, on the south fork of Kaslo creek, the saw mill is being worked, the electric plant is running, and the overhauling of the concentration mill sufficiently advanced to allow of parts of the machinery being given trial runs. Several miners have been sent up from Kaslo. It is expected that both mine and mill will be in operation shortly.

Slocan.—The Ivanhoe concentrator, at Sandon, has been leased by J. P. Keane, who has been developing the Wonderful mine for more than a year and has opened some shoots of ore.

Ore shipments from Slocan and Slocan City mining divisions were comparatively small in October. During four weeks ended October 28 receipts at Trail from Slocan mines totalled only 448 tons, of which 14 tons was from the Eastmont, on Ten-mile creek, Slocan City division, and the remainder from mines in Slocan division, as follows: Rambler-Cariboo, 221 tons; Ruth, 83 tons; Silverton Mines, Ltd. (Hewitt-Lorna Doone group), 130 tons. Some high grade silver ore has been packed down to Sandon from the Mountain Con mine, estimated to be worth $10,000 to $12,000, but shipment to a smeltery is being deferred until metal market conditions shall be less unfavorable than at present.

Nelson.—Small shipments of gold concentrate continue to be made to Trail from mines in Nelson division—the Queen on Sheep creek and the Second Relief at Erie having both been on the shipping list in October. The California, a few miles from the city of Nelson, shipped one small lot of gold ore. Three lead mines situated within a radius of ten miles from Salmo, together shipped 289 tons of lead ore during the month; of this 154 tons was from the H. B. mine, 94 tons from the Emerald and 41 tons from the Zincton. Work is being done on several gold properties, in addition to the Queen, in Sheep Creek camp, and as ore of fairly high value is known to occur on two or three of these it is expected that returns will be profitable. Both silver-lead and copper mines in the northern part