

Commenting on this communication to the shareholders, Mr. Geo. L. Walker says: "The Granby Consolidated Co.'s mines at Phoenix and smelter at Grand Forks are idle, and the management's attention is being given exclusively to the Hidden Creek operations, where, it is understood, a fair operating profit can be shown even with copper selling around 12½ cents a lb. The cost of producing copper at Phoenix and Grand Forks was probably around 11 cents a lb. As the company was obliged to borrow a large sum of money to complete its Hidden Creek financing, it is not in a position to continue production at full volume under present conditions, which probably would entail the necessity of accumulating a considerable stock of copper. To accumulate 10,000,000 lb. of metal, costing 11 cents a lb., would tie up \$1,100,000, and this would severely strain the cash resources of a company in such a position as the Granby Co. is in. The management has wisely passed the dividend, which under normal conditions would have been paid this quarter. There is little doubt that it will be able to make sufficient profit from its Hidden Creek operations to pay the interest on its outstanding bonds and notes. With the return of normal conditions in the metal market, and an advance of three or four cents per lb. in the price of copper, the Granby Co. will be in a position to earn \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 annually. Given those conditions it will be able to liquidate its floating indebtedness very quickly."

#### Coast.

**Portland Canal Tunnels, Ltd.**—Recently there was printed in the Journal information relative to progress made in the mine of the Portland Canal Tunnels, Ltd., near Stewart, Portland Canal mining division, and it was stated that the main crosscut adit being driven by the company had by August 6 reached a distance of 3,534 ft. from its portal. It was also shown that at 2,343 ft. from the mouth of the adit the Lucky Boy vein had been intersected, at 2,600 ft. the Melba vein was reached, and at about 3,000 ft. the Richard II. vein was cut; further, that the Lucky Boy drift was in 530 ft., and that a raise from this drift to connect with the surface was up 90 ft. with about 70 ft. more to be put up before the raise would be through. Since then encouraging progress has been made. On August 24 General Manager Elmendorf telegraphed from Stewart to the company's office in Victoria, to the effect that the crosscut had reached what is known as the green vein. Five days later he advised that the whole face of the adit was in ore of good mill feed grade, and that a sample that had that morning been assayed contained 18 oz. silver to the ton, with gold not yet determined, and some lead. This ore was encountered at about 2,000 ft. below the surface, and its having been proved to occur at that depth is regarded as of much importance to Portland Canal mining division.

#### WESTERN NATURAL GAS CO.

The directors of the Canadian Western Natural Gas Light, Heat & Power Co., Ltd., have placed the shares on a dividend paying basis by the declaration of an interim dividend of 1 per cent., payable August 31. Books will close from August 25 to August 31 inclusive.

The company, which owns a number of natural gas wells in Southern Alberta, supplies gas to Calgary and Lethbridge, with branch lines to other towns. The gas bearing territory controlled covers over one and

a half million acres. The authorized capital is \$8,000,000 in common and an issue of 3,950,000 in 5 per cent. debenture stock was made in London a couple of years ago.

#### PRETORIA MINT TO BE REOPENED.

Pretoria, Aug. 9.

It is officially announced that the Government is temporarily reopening the Pretoria Mint used by the old Transvaal Republican Government for coining South African sovereigns and half-sovereigns. Work is already proceeding in connection with the overhauling of the plant and equipment, and operations will be commenced as soon as possible. The Government's decision is the outcome of a desire to ensure that under no circumstances shall the supply of gold and specie in the Union fall below local requirements. The gold and specie now in the country are sufficient for the Union's needs for a considerable time to come, but it is desirable to make arrangements to supplement the existing gold supplies in case a scarcity should occur.

#### REA MINE.

According to Mr. S. R. Clarke, the Rea mine has shown that a gold mine in Porcupine can be made to pay very handsomely with a comparatively small initial outlay. The Rea's 10-stamp amalgamating mill cost only \$5,000. It crushes 35 tons daily and saves 89 per cent. of the gold, and the monthly return is over \$15,000.

The mills of the Dome and Hollinger have a much greater capacity and a more complete recovery; still the example of the Rea should do much to secure the opening of many properties for which large capital is not now available. The war has shown the extraordinary value of gold, and there is nothing much safer or more profitable now than a producing gold mine.

#### RAY AND NEVADA.

The Ray Consolidated Copper Co. and the Nevada Consolidated Copper Co. have voted to defer action for the time being on the payment of the dividends.

In a letter to stockholders of the Nevada Consolidated Copper Co., explaining deferment of dividends, President Eccles stated as follows:

"The general European war has precipitated a condition which has led to the derangement of markets, transportation and financial facilities in the copper industry. Under normal conditions about 50 per cent. of the copper produced in the United States is marketed abroad, and with the declaration of war this outlet for the copper has become closed for the reasons set forth above. When this condition became apparent your directors determined to curtail operations, and your mines, mill and smelter are now operating on only 50 per cent. capacity."

Political partisans of Felix Diaz have revolted in Oaxaca and other districts in southern Mexico and are in arms against Gen. Carranza's Government, according to information received in New York Tuesday.