

TO CLOSE BUTTE MINES?

Amalgamated Copper Report Causes Sharp Price Break.

There was a report in Wall Street yesterday that the Amalgamated Copper Company had decided to close down all its mines in the Butte camp in Montana, its principal producing district. The rumor, which was thought to be well founded, caused a sharp break in prices of the Stock Exchange, and the copper shares, especially, fell heavily. Amalgamated fell 4 1/2 points, to 69 1/2, which was 12 points under the price a week ago, and 61 points lower than the high price of the year. Anaconda dropped to 27 1/2, compared with 40 1/2, the closing price on the preceding day.

An official of the Amalgamated said that while no orders had been issued from the East which would result in the shutdown of the Butte mines, still, if there were no sales of copper to be made there, the mine would be closed. He said that the copper market, which could be done only by shutting down the mines of the country. Such action in Butte was not improbable. He added that while the Amalgamated company was employing the normal number of men at present, about seven thousand, there would be a reduction in the September output, compared with that of August, of between four million and six million pounds. This decreased production was due, the official said, to the closing of the plant at Great Falls, and to the fact that the most serious problem in Butte at the moment, he continued, was the lack of fuel, resulting from the shortage of cars.

Other leading producing interests said that the outlook was uncertain, and that it was almost impossible to forecast correctly what it would finally be. Well informed copper interests declared that if conditions continued as they were, many mines would have to close down, as it was simply business policy to continue taking ore out of the ground and smelting it when it was impossible to dispose of the refined copper. They said that, in their opinion, a shutdown was certain, and that it would not be for less than two or three months.

Advices from Boston stated that the Amalgamated managers there had been conferring with banking interests in order to have much more accommodation they could expect under present conditions, and that the bankers were united in declaring that they would carry no more copper in their loans beyond the present stock. It is said that the banks in this city will refuse to make any further loans with copper as the basis of credit.

The head of one of the large producing companies expressed his opinion of the situation as follows:

"There can be no doubt whatever that the market at the moment is oversupplied with copper. Present stocks in this country aggregate fully 200,000,000 pounds, as against practically nothing at this time last year. It is all a question of consumption. There may be some few buying again by October 15, but the orders at present are on a hand-to-mouth basis. Should copper decline to 15 cents, which seems very improbable, there would be heavier buying within a range of one cent from that figure than there has been during the course of the 16-cent decline that has already occurred."

An interest identified with the Amalgamated company attributed the present stagnation in the copper trade in part to the government's action against corporations. He said:

"Railroad improvements, which contemplated electrification in large volume, necessarily calling for large tonnages of copper, have been held up pending government action against corporations as well as a turn in financial conditions. The agreement between the Amalgamated company and its miners, which would call for a reduction in the latter's wages to \$3.50 after copper market had been sold at a price under 18 cents for a period of thirty days, has not been considered, as the United Metals Selling Company has not said anything under that level. I believe that in the next few weeks we will see the metal exchange for copper that the world has never known. The copper of the railroads all over the United States and other countries will be taken up, which will consume quantities of the metal."

There was a reduction of half a cent in both the bid and asking prices of all grades of copper yesterday at the Metal Exchange. Lake was 16 bid, 15 1/2 asked; electrolytic 15 1/2 bid, 15 asked; and cast-lead 15 1/2 bid, 15 asked. A week ago lake copper on the Metal Exchange was quoted at 17 1/2 and electrolytic at 17 1/2, but prices have been declining steadily since then.

C. P. HAS GOOD YEAR.

Increase of \$2,330,000 in Net—Land Department's Operation.

The full pamphlet report of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, has been issued. The income account compares with the preceding year as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1907, 1906. Rows include Earnings, Passenger, Freight, Mail, Miscellaneous, Total, Expenses, Operating, Maintenance, etc.

HARRIMAN AND HILL ARM IN ARM.

Oldtime Rivals Seen Chummy—No Deal, Only Accidental Meeting.

The sight of E. H. Harriman and James J. Hill, the two greatest rivals in the railroad world, and their associates, Otto H. Kahn, of Kahn, Loeb & Co., and George F. Baker, of the First National Bank, walking down Pine street arm in arm last Wednesday, led those who witnessed it to believe the millennium was at hand.

The sight was almost too much for some of the oldtimers in the district. They could hardly believe their eyes when they saw these old foes on so many a financial battlefield apparently as chummy as a lot of schoolgirls. What they talked about could not be learned officially, but the general impression was that there was some big deal in prospect, such, for instance, as the formation of a billion dollar holding company to take over all the Hill-Harriman railroads and as many others as could be conveniently gathered in.

Investigation, however, revealed the fact that the meeting was purely accidental, and it is understood, though this is not official, that they talked of everything except business and politics.

FARMERS & DROVERS' BANK TO REOPEN.

Pittsburg, Sept. 12.—State Senator D. F. Walton, president of the defunct Farmers and Drovers' National Bank, at Waynesburg, which failed for \$1,500,000 last December, together with the directors of the bank, met the depositors and creditors at the Hotel Henry, here, this afternoon. The creditors agreed to grant the bank an extension of time for the payment of their claims, and the bank will reopen for business on the authority of the Controller of the Currency.

Senator Walton and the directors have raised \$500,000 cash, with which the bank, one of the oldest in Western Pennsylvania, will be reopened.

Financial.

The official Stock Exchange list at the close yesterday showed declines in every active copper stock but Trinity—beginning with Calumet and Hecla, which dropped \$20 per share for the day. Trinity advanced and closed \$4 per share up from the day before.

Bear in mind that at yesterday's price Calumet gives a net return of 10 per cent. per annum and Amalgamated 12 per cent.

PRICE LEVEL INCREASE.

Weather and crop conditions, influencing the prices of nearly all farm products in an upward direction, offered almost the only real check to the general downward tendency which manifested itself in August in many commodities, and especially in metals, which showed the greatest weakness of any class of manufactured products.

"Bradstreet's" will say to-morrow, discussing the trend of commodity prices:

"On the downward side iron and steel, copper, tin and lead all weakened, as did hides, most raw textiles except cotton and silk, live animals and meats, sugar and coffee among groceries, naval stores and some building materials. As to the depression, the main cause undoubtedly lies in the less active demand noted in a number of lines as respects new business."

"Bradstreet's" approximate index number on September 1, 1907, was 128.27, a decrease of 1.1 per cent from August 1, of 2.3 per cent from July 1, and of 2.2 per cent from the high point of the present movement, reached on March 1, 1907. Compared with September 1 a year ago, the increase in the index price level is 4.4 per cent, and from the same date in 1905 is 6.6 per cent. It is noted, however, that there were high points in earlier years which make the present high level of quotations less notable than might otherwise appear. Thus the gain over February 1, 1905, is 12.2 per cent, and the increase over the high point in 1902 is 8.4 per cent. Compared with the low level set on July 1, 1906, the gain is 54.8 per cent.

NO BAR ON SILKS.

Association Decides Not to Boycott Certain Brands, as Requested.

At the quarterly meeting of the executive committee of the Silk Association of America, held at its rooms, Broadway and Broome street, yesterday afternoon, it was decided to take no action in response to the request of the foreign buyers of Tokio that certain brands of silks be virtually boycotted because the Japanese producers were selling exclusively through Japanese commission houses. This was the important question taken up at the meeting, which was otherwise occupied with the consideration of bills and reports.

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BOSTON FIRM'S ASSETS ATTACHED.

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Financial.

Savings banks return but 4 per cent. Withdraw savings, buy good stocks and before the next Friday, the 13th, savings banks depositors should have doubled their savings.

P. S.—Keep before you: If, after savings have been exchanged, stocks should further decline no investor is harmed. Investors will get the dividends just the same and later will secure the inevitable advance.

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