Information Sheet


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These are sets of monthly statistical reports prepared by officers of the Federal Lead Company’s mines and mill at Flat River in St. Francois County, Missouri. Included are balance sheets, production data, power consumption figures, and other information concerning the company’s operations.


The original copies of the reports (these are carbons) were likely sent to the company’s corporate owners in New York. The reports of January-April 1918 are stamped “American Smelters Securities Co.” at the top. Subsequent reports are stamped “American Smelting & Refining Company.” These parent firms were part of the Guggenheim mining and financial operations.

From January through September 1918 the reports are stamped as having been signed by H. G. Washburn, Manager. Subsequent reports are stamped as having been prepared by Parkhurst Sleeth, Business Manager.

The reports show a fairly steady production of concentrates, averaging around one million dry pounds per month. The Flat River enterprise returned no profitable months in 1918, averaging a monthly loss of about $100,000. There were several profitable months in 1920, particularly in the spring and fall, when the dollar value of the concentrates indicate an upsurge in the price of lead. However, by December 1920 and January 1921 the operation was once again in the red.

These summary records will be useful to researchers interested in the lead industry in the last year of the First World War and the inflationary period which followed.
(R0540) Federal Lead Company. Mining Dept. (Flat River, Mo.). Monthly business reports, 1918-1921

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These are sets of monthly statistical reports prepared by officers of the Federal Lead Company’s mines and mill at Flat River in St. Francois County, Missouri. Included are balance sheets, production data, power consumption figures, and other information concerning the company’s operations.

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Sleeth, Parkhurst.
Washburn, H. G.