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As Mr. Lindsey pointed out at the annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute, the fuel problem of the Canadian West is largely one of transportation. In this the West is not peculiar, for shortage of locomotives and cars is obviously one of the chief causes for fuel shortage in Central Canada and the United States. Unfortunately the shortage of cars in the West and the high freight rates on coal coming east are not due to temporary causes.

The Granby Company evidently intends to make itself as independent as possible of others so far as fuel is concerned. By opening a coal mine on Vancouver Island and installing a by-product coke oven plant at Anyox, the company has taken steps which should insure a satisfactory fuel supply.

REPORT OF MUNITION RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Munition Resources Commission, appointed by Order-in-Council in November, 1915, "for the purpose of instituting an enquiry respecting the supply and sufficiency of raw materials in Canada required for the production of munitions of war, and the best means of conserving the same," has issued its first report.

One of the matters taken up by the Commission was that of assisting Canadian firms to obtain supplies of tool steel from the United Kingdom. It was arranged that all orders for such steel for munition work should be subject to certification by the Commission. Later the Commission was called upon to certify to the requirements of other Canadian users. This procedure was followed for a year; but in Feb., 1917, the Department of Trade and Commerce was asked by the Imperial Government to act as a local Priority Authority for Canada and the Commission's certification was no longer required.

Acting on the advice of the Commission, the Department of Customs placed an embargo on export of scrap steel in January, 1916, in order to assure the necessary supply for munition plants. In the latter part of the year export under license was permitted; but the Commission recommended that such export be prohibited after Jan. 1, 1917. Export of turnings and borings was, however, continued in 1917. In February, 1918, the Shell Scrap Department of the Imperial Munitions was organized to purchase from munitions contractors all their heavy scrap at \$24 and steel turnings at \$12 per ton. The steel companies are required to pay this price plus freight charges. On July 12th, 1917, authority to issue licenses for export for scrap steel turnings and borings was withdrawn.

The Commission interested itself in the agitation for refining of copper and nickel in Canada, and recommended that the Government offer inducements that would lead to the erection of a copper refinery here. The Commission urged the Government to insist upon a nickel refinery being established at once, the International Nickel Company having announced that it proposed to establish one. The Commission recommended the guaranteeing of certain securities of the British America Nickel Co., which had announced its intention of erecting refineries for nickel and copper. The Commission has carried on a number of investigations concerning mineral resources; Professor J. C. Gwillim, Dr. W. F. Ferrier and Dr. W. L. Uglow being engaged for this work. Certain special investigations were undertaken for the Commission by members of the staff of the Department of Mines. The report includes some account of the results of these investigations. Special study was made of chromite, magnesite, manganese ores, molybdenite, tungsten and zinc.