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WANT ANALYTICAL LABORATORY IN CENTRAL B.C.

Mining men of British Columbia want the Dominion Government to establish an analytical laboratory at some central mining point in the Province, and an agitation to this end has been in progress for some time. In the hope that his action may induce the Federal authorities to take this step, Mr. M. S. Davys, of Kaslo, B.C., has offered through the Kaslo (B.C.) Board of Trade to furnish a building for such a mill and it is understood that the municipal authorities would be agreeable to furnishing the necessary electrical power. It is admitted that a laboratory of the kind would be of material service to the operators of the southern interior of the Province.

Mr. Wm. Thomlinson, ore sampler for the Canadian Munitions Board, recently visited Franklin camp and forwarded ore samples to the Dominion Assay Office, Vancouver. While the returns did not demonstrate the presence of platinum in commercial quantities they were sufficiently satisfactory to warrant a closer survey of the entire district.

The Dominion Government has established a platinum camp on Slate Creek, a tributary of the Tulameen near Princeton, B.C. It is in charge of Mr. George E. MacKenzie, of the munitions commission.

The refusal of the miners of the Crow's Nest District to go to work pending an inquiry is sure to react to the disadvantage of coal miners at Fernie and elsewhere. Those who are responsible for increasing the shortage of coal at this time, have little cause to wonder that they fail to secure the sympathy of the public. Miners and operators of coal mines have alike a duty to perform at this time and no differences between them are so great that they should be allowed to retard the carrying on of war work.

It is reasonable to expect that wages should be increased as cost of living and danger in mines increases. It is reasonable also to expect that every effort will be made by both miners and operators to settle their differences without retarding production. It must be admitted that it is not always easy to settle labor disputes, and that one or the other side is often disposed to be unreasonable. It must be admitted by the miners that a serious endeavor is being made to investigate their grievances, and their refusal to work on Mr. Armstrong's terms will convince the public that they are shirking their duty, regardless of consequences. We hope that in the interests of miners generally the miners of Fernie District will take action that will prove that they have been misrepresented. We would like to believe that they have, for otherwise their conduct is a disgrace to the industry.

The great successes of the Allies during the past three months have brought victory much nearer. Few of us had reason to expect that success would come so soon. It was confidently expected that victorious advances would come in the spring of 1919; but already the change has come over Europe.

Great activity in the mining and metallurgical industries must follow the war. While a great endeavor has been made to keep up production of minerals and metals during the war, there has been greater consumption than production. The period of reconstruction will make great demands on our basic materials. During the war the shortage of men, machinery and supplies and their high cost has imposed serious handicaps on the mines, they have done well under these handicaps and it is certain that they will do better under normal conditions.

Very successful results are being obtained at Quyon in treating molybdenite by the flotation process. At Cobalt the flotation process is a great boon to operators, and is making possible the recovery of silver from low grade material at a time when the price is good. The mining industry in Canada, as elsewhere, owes more to those who invented and developed the flotation process than is generally acknowledged.