

Company is selling potatoes to its workpeople at 85 cents per bushel, while the local farmers are asking \$2.00 a bushel. What is there that makes the same bushel of potatoes worth 75 cents last autumn and \$2.00 today, when the cost of transportation and all other costs play no part in the increase?

If a private corporation can by the exercise of ordinary prudence and foresight control the cost of living in this way where is the Canadian Government? Food shortage there may be, and undoubtedly is, but what is there to justify a raise of \$3.00 a barrel for flour in one week, when admittedly Canada cannot consume or send to Europe her existing stocks of flour?

#### THAT MEMORANDUM OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERS

In our last issue we called attention to the propaganda of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers in which the mining societies of Canada are misrepresented. Canada has two mining societies composed largely of technical men; The Canadian Mining Institute and the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. Naturally very few mining men belong to the Society of Civil Engineers. Yet the latter society in advancing its own claims as a society representing the technical men of Canada, has published and distributed a pamphlet which contains such absurd statements as the following:

"There is in Canada one engineering Organization, namely the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, which embraces all branches of engineering and may be taken to correspond largely to the five great scientific bodies from which the Government of the United States selected the great part of its Naval Consulting Board. There are in addition two other organizations of less magnitude and which include in their membership a number who are also members of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. These two are, the Canadian Mining Institute and The Society of Chemical Industry. The Royal Society of Canada may also be considered a scientific society, but the great majority of its members are devoted to philosophy and literature. The accompanying chart indicates the number of fully qualified technical men in each of the organizations named:" The chart misrepresenting the Canadian Mining Institute credits that organization with a total membership of 1017 of whom 817 are "Lay Members" and 200 "Fully qualified Technical men mostly Members of Canadian Society of Civil Engineers."

The statements made in the memorandum are pure fabrications. The number of qualified technical men in the Canadian Mining Institute is over 800 and less than 5 per cent of these belong to the Society of Civil Engineers.

The Civil Engineers completely ignore the existence of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. It is perhaps as well. Anything which the Civil Engineers said about it would probably have been bunk.

In spite of the misleading information contained in the memorandum the Society of Civil Engineers seems to be proud of it. They are sending out with copies of the memorandum letters asking that members publish the nonsense as widely as possible.

#### PREMIER'S SUMMARY REVIEW OF MINING IN B. C.

In the course of his budget speech, delivered in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia on April 23, Premier Brewster, who is also for the time acting as Minister of Finance for the Province, gave figures among which were the following, showing the estimated value of production in 1916, and, for the purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for the year 1915:

	1916.	1915.
Products. . . . .	(estimated).	
Mines . . . . .	\$42,300,000	\$29,448,000
Forests. . . . .	35,528,000	29,150,000
Agriculture. . . . .	32,259,157	31,127,801
Fisheries. . . . .	14,538,320	11,515,086

A published report of the Premier's observations relative to mining is as follows:

The total value of the mineral production of the Province for all years to the end of 1916 was roughly \$558,500,000. The value of the output for 1916 was nearly \$42,300,000 an increase of 44 per cent. over that of the preceding year. The output from metalliferous mining in 1915 was valued at nearly \$21,000,000, while in 1916 it was more than \$32,000,000, an increase over the first mentioned year of about \$11,000,000, or 54 per cent., while, as compared with the previous record, which was for the year 1912, the increase was 76 per cent.

While some of this enormous increase in value is undoubtedly due to the higher market value of most of the metals, yet in each of the metals, except gold, there has been a largely increased quantity produced of the more important economic metals, lead, the output of which in 1915 was 46,500,000 lb., was in 1916 nearly 49,000,000 lb., an increase of 2,500,000 lb. of metal produced. Similarly the output of copper increased, from 57,000,000 to nearly 65,500,000 lb., an increase of about 8,500,000 lb., and the quantity of zinc produced increased from about 13,000,000 in 1915 to 37,000,000 lb. in 1916, an increase of 24,000,000 lb., or nearly 200 per cent.

These facts, represented by figures, indicate that the industry as a whole has been enjoying a most profitable and successful year, while there is every reason to expect that such will continue during 1917, the first three months of which year have already expired, and have given such definite indications that it is safe to predict that the mineral output for 1917 will be greater by \$50,000,000.

The tonnage of ore mined in the Province in 1915 was about 2,700,000 tons, while in 1916 it was about 3,200,000 tons. There was no doubt but that this great increase in output was stimulated by the high prices of metals due to war conditions, but it is now practically assured that these high prices will continue for the full year 1917.

Coal mining is largely dependent on other mining for a market, and the increase in metal mining has had its influence on the coal and coke output, which in 1916 was nearly \$2,000,000 higher than the preceding year, while it seems probable that a similar increase will be made in 1917, bringing the gross value of the products of the collieries up to more than \$11,000,000.