

find the Civil Service Commission advertising, as it did recently, for a scientifically trained man for the Mines Department at a salary of \$1,600 per year? Are the policies of the Government as exemplified by the Civil Service Commission and the Advisory Council in harmony? Is a Government that is unwilling to pay adequate salaries to technical men justified in encouraging young men to spend years and money in acquiring advanced technical education, if they intend to live and work in Canada?

VIEWS ON ORIENTAL LABOR FOR COAL MINES.

In official, political and Labor circles throughout British Columbia, the recent declaration of Hon. Frank Carvell, Canadian Minister of Public Works, that Asiatic labor must be imported for Canadian coal mines, if the fuel required for the absolute necessities of Canada cannot otherwise be produced, has occasioned much comment. The suggestion that Orientals should be given access to Western Canada without restriction meets with general opposition and any step having in view their employment in mines in larger numbers than at present would meet with vigorous opposition, not only on the part of the miners' unions, but by every branch of organized labor. The Press also opposes the idea, with the single qualification that it might be forced by famine. One of the leading journals of the province refers to the matter in the following terms:—

"The Minister of Public Works may not understand all the objections to the policy he proposes. His conditional plan would find the strongest opposition in the province which is best acquainted with Oriental problems. Nevertheless the statement of Mr. Carvell will have strong support among the people, if they find a coal famine upon them. Fuel must be provided, and in the last emergency the Government would undoubtedly call on Asia or any other country for help. But the last emergency has not yet arrived and it should not be too late to avert it by other means."

THE SEARCH FOR PLATINUM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. G. C. Mackenzie, of the Canadian Department of Mines, has made an interesting statement of the work under way in British Columbia in the line of prospecting for and developing minerals urgently needed by the Munition Resources Commission of Canada for war purposes.

The opening up of platinum ground was first undertaken. Mr. Mackenzie took a light prospecting outfit into the Tulameen River district, this consisting chiefly of three Empire drills. While no holes have been driven as yet, some gravel has been washed and it has been established that platinum can be obtained. The party traveled up and down the river, visiting many claims being operated by individuals, all of whom were taking out platinum and gold and all of whom appeared to be making wages. Promises were secured in every instance that clean-ups from these claims would be taken either to the Bank of Montreal or the Bank of Commerce at Princeton, B.C., whence the mineral will be forwarded to the Dominion Assay Office, Vancouver, B.C., for treatment.

Mr. Mackenzie says, in this connection, that the refinery for the handling of platinum and gold, which is being installed at the Vancouver Assay Office, is about complete and that it will be prepared to take all the

platinum, with or without gold, that may be offered, paying the market price for the latter and \$105 an ounce for the former. The prices offered for palladium, iridium and osmiridium have not yet been decided, but quotations have been cabled for and will be known in a short time.

On behalf of the Dominion Government, Mr. Tomlinson is touring British Columbia, at present being in the Kootenay districts. He is sampling all ground reported to contain platinum and, in brief, carrying out a thorough investigation in order that no other real source of supply may be overlooked.

Rich Molybdenite Ore From Taylor Mine.

Some time ago there was shipped from the Taylor molybdenite mine, near Renfrew, what is perhaps the richest car of molybdenite ore ever treated in Canada. Sampling and concentration results on this shipment show that it averaged over 6 per cent. MoS₂. According to Mr. Taylor, who owns and operates the mine, only a small part of the shipment was hand-picked ore.

The market for molybdenite has recently been poor, as the United States dealers have not shown any anxiety to obtain supplies. Most of the molybdenite produced in North America is manufactured into ferro-molybdenum in the United States and exported to Europe.

The detailed report on the sampling and concentration of the carload of Taylor mine ore recently treated at Ottawa, show that it contained 141.5 lb. flake, containing 89.2% MoS₂, and 49,937 lb. ore and fines containing 6% MoS₂, or a total of 3,122.4 lb. MoS₂. The recovery was 92%, or 2,872.65 lb. MoS₂.

DEVELOPING COPPER MOUNTAIN.

The Canada Copper Corporation is making very satisfactory progress in the development of its immense deposits of low-grade copper at Copper Mountain, and should be in a position to commence production on a large scale at an early date. It is estimated that before work starts in the actual taking out of ore, the company will have expended \$3,000,000. Miles of road for the use of wagons and automobile trucks have been built to the mill site, situated four miles from Princeton, B.C., and a saw-mill, capable of cutting between 16,000 and 18,000 feet a day has been installed. Some excavating has been done for foundations to sustain the concentrating plant, capacity 2,000 tons daily, and some of the timber that will enter into its construction has been prepared. The company has been engaged in the opening up of its Copper Mountain properties for seven or eight years.

DIRECTOR OF COAL OPERATIONS.

Ottawa, Sept. 13.—Charles A. Magrath, Fuel Controller, has been appointed Director of Coal Operations for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The powers given him are wide. He has power to make all necessary investigation and enquiries respecting wages, holidays, hours of labor, the utilization of labor to the best advantage, and respecting all other matters necessary to, and connected with, the cost of and production of coal and "the increase and continuance of such production in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during the present war and for three months after the end of the war."