

produced by the International Nickel Co. will be refined in Canada. We should also look forward to the recovery in Canada of all the precious metals which are mined with the nickel. There is also now under construction a refinery for the British America Nickel Company which is developing the Murray mine.

Northern Manitoba has during the war become an important producer of copper. Under serious handicaps several thousand tons of rich ore has been mined and shipped from Schist Lake. A large deposit of sulphide ore at Flin Flon Lake has been discovered and explored by drilling. Several gold deposits have been found. Northern Manitoba is sure to attract much attention from mining men now that peace is near.

In Quebec great changes have been brought about in the asbestos industry by the war. Formerly much of the asbestos went to Europe, and the production naturally fell off when the war began. A larger market in the United States has been developed and larger quantities than ever will be used both in the United States and Europe.

In the Prairie Provinces the coal shortage has resulted in greater production and consumption of Canadian coal. The immediate result has been greater activity at the Alberta coal mines. The market for Alberta coal has been considerably enlarged and the coal mining companies will be permanently benefitted by the greater utilization of local fuel.

In British Columbia gold mining has naturally suffered severely. This industry will be greatly benefitted by the return of peace conditions. The war has hastened the establishment of zinc and copper refineries. The search for "war minerals" has resulted in the direction of attention to many idle properties. Greater activity in prospecting and development of the mineral areas of British Columbia is confidently expected.

In Nova Scotia the coal mines have been handicapped by shortage of men and inadequate transportation. With men and ships available the Nova Scotia mines will greatly increase production. The great activity in the iron and steel industry will continue war or peace. This will require larger supplies of ore, fuel and fluxes. Mining in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland must therefore be increased to supply the needs of the province. Mining of coal to supply the Maritime Provinces, the Atlantic States and for coaling ships will also be necessary.

THE EMPIRE'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

The Imperial Institute, in continuation of its publications with reference to the Mineral Resources of the Empire, has now issued a map with diagrams indicating the sources within the Empire of the chief metals of commercial importance. The outline map shows the occurrence in each British country of important metallic ores, and also the existence of deposits at present unworked. The diagrams attached to the map give for 1915 the production of each country as well as the total British output and the world's output of each important metal or ore.

Among the striking features disclosed are that in the case of gold more than half the total production is within the Empire, the principal producer being South Africa. With silver the British proportion is rather less than one-fifth, the principal producer being Canada. In the cases of manganese, chromium, tin and molybdenum the

British proportion is near one-half. It is remarkable that there appears to be scarcely any production of the valuable metals mercury and platinum within the Empire, so that we are almost entirely dependent on foreign countries for supplies. In the case of nickel, and cobalt Canada produces most of the world's supply.

This publication should prove of great general interest apart from its importance to those specially concerned in mining operations and should be of considerable value for educational purposes.

The map, which is folded and mounted on linen, has been prepared with the advice of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, of which the late Lord Rhondda was chairman at the time of his death. The map with diagrams has been placed on sale at a price of 5s. 6d. post free.

The data used are for 1915. At present Canada is producing much larger quantities of molybdenite and chromite than in 1915. Canada also produces a very considerable quantity of platinum and palladium.

CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed Changes in Mining Act.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL:

Sir,—I noticed in your publication of October 15th, a statement by Mr. Godson, that there is a growing sentiment throughout the country in favor of the elimination of the existing system of issuing Crown Grants of mineral claims to parties who comply with the requirements as to development, etc., and the inauguration in its stead, of a system whereunder the government would retain perpetual ownership of their mineral lands, only granting leaseholds on liberal terms, with a penalty of forfeiture if the terms are not complied with.

In the spring of 1918, at the mining convention, held in this city, a number of resolutions suggesting changes in the Mining Act were unanimously passed by a large number of mining engineers and prospectors who attended the convention. One of the most important changes suggested as being beneficial to this and other mining divisions, was exactly the opposite to Mr. Godson's statement, i.e.—to abandon the lease system and grant patents instead, for the following reasons. "Uncertainty of tenure of leases and Licenses of Occupation, subject to regulations which may be altered from time to time by Orders-in-Council, or may be cancelled or revoked, render them too hazardous a proposition for capital to entertain, and the mining industry is entirely dependent on securing capital for its development."

It is further the opinion of this Board, that the above reasons are amply justified by the many years experience that the members of the mining committee have had in this district, and other parts of the provinces. For example—a mining company might go to very heavy expense in development, mines buildings, machinery, etc., and if a term of lean years in the market came along, they would be forced, under the lease system, to operate at a very heavy loss or the lease would be automatically cancelled and many thousands of dollars of development and mine equipment would be completely thrown away, or at best the mine equipment would have to be scrapped and sold at a great loss.

It is true that the lease system is applied to many iron mines in the United States after Patents to owners are issued; but the length of lease invariably extends over a very considerable period of time ranging from 25 to 50 years, also the minimum shipments are made so low that a mining company could tide over several lean years on paying their advance royalties and mining the ores when the market improved.

But the important point of all is that it would absolutely discourage exploration. What explorer could afford to