

the Secretary of the Institute be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution, with copies of the papers in question to the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Society of Chemical Industry, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Pulp and Paper Association, the Textile Association, and other industrial national bodies, with the request that they consider the reform advocated, so that joint action can be taken in bringing the matter to the attention of the educational authorities of the Dominion."

#### CANNEL COAL.

Cannel coal has long been a will-o'-the-wisp to coal men, and to many of them its mere mention brings up visions of wealth. The reason becomes obvious when its price on the market is compared with that of ordinary bituminous coal, for in days past cannel coal has sold in the New York market at a price about three times that of the best bituminous coal and perhaps double the price of anthracite. This high price is due to old causes—strong demand and weak supply.

As a coal for use in office and household grates, as an enricher of coal gas, and as a quick-firing coal for use in fire engines and otherwise, cannel coal has filled a unique place; and these uses coupled with its scarcity in the earth have made it an object of much search and of many disappointments, because wherever it is found there has usually proved to be very little of it.

Of late years, however, fewer grates are used in the office and the home, and water gas, enriched with oil, has replaced the old type of coal gas, so that when the European war broke out the demand for cannel coal as such had largely disappeared. Then some people remembered that many years ago, before oil was struck in the country, houses were lighted with oil obtained from cannel coal. They remembered that on distillation cannel coal yielded more oil and gas than could be obtained from ordinary bituminous coal. They realized that the sudden demand for high explosives for use in the war required the utilization of the by-products formed in the distillation of coal, and they argued that if cannel coal when distilled yielded more oil and gas than other coals it should be very rich in the by-products from which benzene, toluol, and other explosive bases are made, so a demand was made for information about cannel coal. To supply this information the United States Government, through the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, has just issued a report on the cannel coals of the United States, describing cannel coal in detail and telling where it can be found. This report refers to every place where cannel coal has been found or where it is said to occur. It contains references to nearly a hundred and fifty such places in one State alone, Kentucky.

The fact that cannel coal does yield large quantities of oil and gas is confirmed, but it is found that this oil, though suitable for ordinary burning, distills at a temperature so low that the percentage of gasoline, benzene, and other desired substances it contains is very small, and until some way has been discovered of distilling it at a higher temperature or of cracking or otherwise converting the oils found into the oils desired the distillation of cannel coal will not furnish the large supply of gasoline, benzene, toluol, and other substances that are now so greatly needed.

#### MOLYBDENITE IN NORWAY.

Norway has been for several years an important producer of molybdenite. At pre-war prices the industry was evidently not a profitable one; but it is said that the few regular producers are now making very large profits and dozens of new companies have been formed to take advantage of the high prices which can be obtained in Norway. In view of these reports of fabulous profits we are naturally interested in the cost of producing molybdenite in Norway. Some light on this matter was given by Mr. Ernest R. Woakes at a meeting of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in London on Jan. 17th, 1918. Mr. Woakes recently visited most of the molybdenite mines in Norway and he says of the cost of production "no mine produces a ton of 75 per cent. concentrates at a less cost than \$2,500. with the abnormal cost of labor, materials, etc., in Norway at the present time." If the Norwegian producers had to accept the price fixed in England and forced on Canadians by the molybdenite embargo they would soon be bankrupt.

#### ELECTRICAL INSPECTION AT ONTARIO MINES.

Section 37 of The Power Commission Act, as enacted by section 10 of The Power Commission Act, 1916, is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

This section shall not apply to any mine as defined in The Mining Act of Ontario, save only as regards any dwelling-house or other building not connected with or required for mining operations or purposes or used for the treatment of ore or mineral.

#### DOLLAR SILVER.

Washington, April 9.—Melting into bullion of not more than 250,000,000 silver dollars now in the Treasury for sale and export, to pay trade balances, and repurchase of silver at \$1 an ounce, is proposed in an Administration bill introduced to-day by Senator Pittman of Nevada as an emergency war measure. Silver certificates would be withdrawn from circulation as the dollars are taken from the Treasury, and Federal Reserve Bank notes of new \$1 and \$2 denominations substituted. If enacted, the measure virtually would fix a standard price for silver at \$1 an ounce.

#### BIG GUNS.

London, April 3.—Rear-Admiral T. B. S. Adair, of the Parkhead Steel Works, Glasgow, commenting on the "mystery" gun, says that as far back as 1909 a certain 12-inch gun of Scottish design was tested at Woolwich and some very remarkable and unprecedented ballistics were obtained. The gun could easily throw a 700-pound projectile of modern contour a distance of sixty-two miles, at an expense, however, of shortening its life to about forty rounds, but it could then be relined. The recent German spectacular effect obtained with a 24-centimeter gun can be reproduced by British gunmakers whenever required.

Charles M. Schwab says: "The German gun which has been bombarding Paris may do for killing women and children at long distance, but I doubt its military value. We could make such a gun easily. It might be made practicable for certain distances, but I still believe it to be of little military use for 60 up to 100 miles. There is under construction an American gun which shoots a 16-inch projectile 59 miles. That is the gun we are building for coast defence at Sandy Hook."