

Sudbury district was never so large. It is evident that if the increased demand is to be met by increased production there must be increase in plant. If there is to be increase in plant, is not now the time to begin construction of a refinery in Canada? It could take care of the new business and gradually be extended to meet the demands for increased output which is bound to come. The New Jersey plant, instead of being scrapped, could be used to supply part of the market under the present restrictions. Before the time comes for the lifting of the present restrictions consideration should be given to the advisability of providing that the New Jersey plant should be used only for supplying the United States market.

THAT COPPER RULING

News despatches recently have credited the British Government with making a rule that the price of copper must not exceed £100 per ton—equal to about 21 cents per pound. Naturally there have been adverse comments on what appears an arbitrary measure to fix the price of a commodity which England must obtain abroad and chiefly in the United States.

As the Journal of Commerce points out, such a ruling might prevent British munitions manufacturers from obtaining copper. "In that case the British factories will have to close, and the orders for munitions will have to be sent to the United States and Canada, where manufacturers are free to buy their copper in such quantities and at such prices as the market conditions may allow. Such a result would not meet the purposes which the Government had in view. They desired to guard against the excessive price of an article absolutely necessary in the production of munitions. They may have to come to the conclusion that it is better to have copper at a high price than not to have it at all."

The wording of the ruling is, however, worthy of consideration. It states that no order should be placed at prices exceeding £100 per ton "without first consulting the director of materials." The news despatches have omitted these significant words.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

There is to be no election of officers at the meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute in March, but there are indications that the business session will be enlivened by discussions on the by-laws. At least two amendments have been drawn up and submitted for consideration at the meeting.

One of these amendments would provide that certain matters now decided at the annual meetings should be decided by letter ballot. From what we have heard of this proposal it is apparently the opinion of Mr. Norman Fisher and Mr. B. Neilly, who are proposing this amendment, that the present method is unfair to the large number of members who are unable to attend the meet-

ings and are thus deprived of a vote. Most of us agree with them in this. It is generally acknowledged that there are good grounds for dissatisfaction with the present practice. Many members live so far from the places of meeting that they are seldom able to attend. It is not desirable that they should be deprived of an opportunity to vote on some of the questions which are now decided at the annual meetings. On the other hand the business sessions would lose most of their interest if questions of importance could not be decided there. Most of the members who attend the business sessions do so because something is to be decided there and because they want to hear or take part in the discussion. If no decision was to be arrived at the session would lose nine-tenths of its interest. The proposal merits consideration. It is not an easy matter to decide which method of voting is in the best interests of the Institute.

The Temiskaming Mining Company directors have a particularly interesting report to present at the annual meeting, the date of which has not yet been set. The year 1915 was a very successful one and the prospects are even better, for important additions have been made to ore reserves. President F. L. Culver deserves great credit for the able manner in which he has handled the company's affairs.

The excellent inspection system at the Beaver mine has attracted much attention. Numerous favorable comments have been made on it and the Chief Inspector of Mines of Ontario, Mr. T. F. Sutherland, has pointed it out many times as a good example. A recent publication of the U. S. Bureau of Mines pays the management of the Beaver a well deserved compliment by singling out the Beaver system as the best in America for a small mine.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. has decided to enlarge the plant at New Glasgow. A new open hearth furnace of 200 tons capacity and a plant for forging shells have been contracted for.

American mining companies paid in dividends in 1915 the sum of \$75,383,387 as compared with \$60,323,529 in 1914.

Deep in the German mind was the sentiment that robbery is not robbery when Germans steal for Germany; deep in the German mind was the sentiment that to get by force is as good a way as any. So, having got by industry what was to be had, Germany has published her creed: "Property first, righteousness at convenience." We have all seen the document sealed with blood of Belgium. We have all accepted notice that Germany is for Germany, property first, and all of us who are not Germans admit that Germany on her present basis is of all the nations the most powerful enemy of peace.—Life.