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ASSISTANCE TO GOLD MINING.

The British Government is said to have appointed a Royal Commission to report on "The War's Effect on Gold Production in the British Empire." The commission is composed of four members with Lord Inchcape as its chairman, while Mr. William Frecheville is its technical advisor. Dr. W. G. Miller represents Canada.

Mr. Frecheville is one of the foremost mining engineers in London, and at the same time one of Great Britain's most public spirited citizens. A few years ago he gave up a large and lucrative private practice to assume the onerous duties of Dean of the Mining School in the Imperial College of Science in order to put that school on a higher educational plane, and assist in educating the young engineers of the Mother Country. The people of Canada may feel the utmost confidence in leaving their case for any possible assistance to gold mining in Mr. Frecheville's hands. He knows the gold mining industry of Canada thoroughly. He has visited the country himself on several occasions, and he is also one of the directors of the Anglo-French Exploration Company, which has an interest in the Hollinger and other mines in the country, and whose representative, Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, keeps him, along with the other directors of the company, thoroughly informed on our mining situation.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES WILL NOW BE SPEEDED UP.

Those who are engaged in developing our mineral resources have busy days ahead of them. The rapid development of our mineral deposits is now necessary and will soon be possible. The world is crying for our raw materials. Canada's mines have done well during the war in spite of shortage of labor and high cost of supplies, and they will soon be in position to greatly increase production and add materially to the wealth of the nation.

During 1917 Canada produced minerals and metals valued at \$192,982,837. This great production was obtained under conditions that made operation very difficult. Many of our best miners have been fighting in France. There has been a shortage of machinery and supplies. The demand for raw materials is now greater than ever before, and with men, machinery and supplies available our production is bound to increase.

The effect of the coming of peace has already been interpreted by the stock exchanges. Munitions manufacture must now give way to the production of basic necessities. Construction and the repairing of badly worn equipment will call for enormous quantities of minerals and metals. With more men and machinery available, and with less costly supplies, the Canadian mining and metallurgical industries must grow rapidly in the next few years.

While the consumption of the common metals, iron, lead and zinc, is sure to be large for reconstruction purposes, as it has for munitions manufacture, there also will be great demand for the precious metals. Our gold mining industry, which has stood the severe test of war in a very remarkable way, is certain to take giant steps forward in the coming year. That our gold mining companies have been able to operate at all during the past two years has been surprising to many of us. An industry which has lived through such trying times cannot but develop very rapidly now.

Silver has fortunately commanded a price which made possible the profitable operation of the Cobalt silver mines in spite of high costs. The demand for silver continues good and it is unlikely that silver will be cheap again for many years. The Cobalt silver mines have never had large reserves developed, but they continue to show up well on development. Much of the ore has been mined, but the end of silver mining at Cobalt is still far away.

The Sudbury nickel-copper mines and smelters have been very busy during the war and will continue so. Nickel refining on a large scale in Canada has just begun. Nickel, so useful in the manufacture of munitions, will be in great demand for the manufacture of nickel steel for peaceful trades. Copper also will be needed and there is a great scarcity of platinum and palladium which occur in the Sudbury nickel-copper ores.

It is reasonable to expect that the refinery at Port Colborne will soon be enlarged so that all the matte