

but when coal production declines to a point where it threatens the production of war munitions and hampers the movement of troops and munitions, it throttles all national endeavor at its source.

Coal-mining to-day is not an industry within the general acceptance of that term. It is a department of national defence. Without it, the presence of our troops on the firing line cannot be. Why, then, should the production of coal, of all things, be distinguished by a decline that other and less essential occupations do not show. Steel, wheat, men, ships, guns, shells, money, all these things, and many others are but a transmutation of coal, merely the finished product of materials that have been mined, assembled, and manufactured with the help of coal. Coal is basic, fundamental. When will the fact be realized?—F. W. G.

#### THE GOSPEL OF UNITY.

One of the most notable figures in America to-day is Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Gompers before the war was an extreme pacifist; but he quickly woke up when Germany set the world afire. Since then he has helped citizens of the United States to realize the dangers that confronted them, and he will always be honored for his part in preparing his country for the battle for freedom, which his vision enabled him to see in what, to many of his fellows, seemed to be merely a European quarrel. Mr. Gompers visited Canada recently and while here he made it clear that he has not been fooled by the sophistry and pretences of the Socialists. In view of what he has done and is doing his words have considerable weight and his appeal for unity was well received throughout the country. He closed his address to the Canadian Club with the following words:

"I ask and appeal for the unity of the people of Canada. I cannot find words to express to you my appreciation of the magnificent courage, of the wonderful contribution which the manhood and womanhood of Canada have given to this great cause voluntarily. I appeal for still stronger and greater sacrifices if needs be. I am making the same appeal to my fellow-countrymen in the United States. I wish that I could go abroad to my fellow-workers of Great Britain and of France. I wish that I could go to the front and give a word of cheer and heartening to the fighting boys there. But I am advised that the best service I can give is to remain at home and occasionally go to the men who are in accord with us and help to spread the gospel of unity of spirit and purpose, and solidarity, and sacrifice, in order that we shall not fail; and we dare not fail.

"The clock has struck. The time is tolled. Every man to his post of duty, where he can give the best possible service for the common cause. Men must fight. The men at home must sacrifice—must work, give service, buy bonds, spare all that can be spared—that our

fighting men over there shall be supplied with everything that they may require to put up the fight that shall win. It is either to buy bonds and pay taxes for freedom, or to pay tribute and indemnity for the Kaiser and unfreedom—that is the choice. And for us, who not only understand what freedom means, but who have grown out of the loins of men whose forbears were the men who fought for freedom—for the men of to-day who have freedom, enjoy freedom and practise freedom, there is no choice. Men of Canada, fight on, carry on, and victory will be yours and ours, for the whole world and for the generations yet unborn."

#### B.C. LEGISLATURE MAY RE-ENACT LEGISLATION RE COAL LANDS.

Discussing the disallowance by the Dominion Government of the Provincial Statute giving the early settlers within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Belt the right to apply and, their claims on examination proving sound, to receive Provincial title to the coal rights in their lands, Hon. John Oliver, Premier of British Columbia, recently stated that he saw no reason why the Provincial Legislature, at its next session, should not be asked to re-enact the legislation. This is taken to mean that the Province will insist on its power to give the settlers the privilege indicated. It also means that the present British Columbia Government is likely to maintain the principle of Provincial authority in the case in question. The issue is one of vital import not only to the settlers, whose coal lands are at stake, but as well to the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co., which holds Provincial title to valuable coal areas, and to the Canadian Collieries (D) Ltd., which claims title to all the non-alienated coal lands in the Railway Belt by virtue of the terms of the subsidy granted to the E. & N. Railway Company in 1884.

#### B.C. MINERAL ACT NOW APPLIES TO TUNGSTEN, ETC.

The Mineral Act of British Columbia has been enlarged by Order-in-Council to apply to tungsten, fluorine, vanadium, radium, and uranium, or any combination of these elements "with themselves, or with any other elements." This action was taken by the Provincial Government on recommendation of Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines. Without exception, these are minerals the importance of which has been accentuated by the war, some to a greater extent than others. It having been brought to the attention of the Department of Mines that there are occurrences of fluorspar and of scheelite in British Columbia it was decided to lose no time in bringing these and other minerals, heretofore outside the scope of the Act, but imperatively needed in the manufacture of munitions of war, within its provisions. It may be stated by way of explanation that the Provincial Mineral Act, and its definition of mineral, were drafted twenty years ago when the minerals in question were unconsidered so that they have been in the anomalous position of being unstackable under the Act in a legal sense, although common sense and the necessities of the times demanded their inclusion. Incidentally it is pointed out that the British War Board has asked the Canadian Government to produce as much vanadium as possible, while the need of tungsten also is great. Not an inconsiderable market for fluorspar exists at the smeltery of the Canadian Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co., at Trail, B.C.