

sent rings of quaint setting which were plainly heirlooms, school teachers in country districts have banded together to send sums which must undoubtedly have entailed sacrifice, factory workers have given their time and labor, rich and poor have vied with one another in endeavor to express their desire to aid the stricken country in which war is still being waged.

When the collection of goods was begun, a couple of large rooms in the Beardmore building, in which Mr. Prud'homme had his office, were secured for storage and packing purposes. Within three days the inadequacy of these rooms was made manifest. Immediately a whole building was offered rent free, then another, and still others, so that at the present no less than five warehouses are being used by the executive committee in Montreal alone. When the flood of gifts had only just begun to set in, the writer paid a visit to the two rooms at the headquarters. The collection, even at that time was varied almost to the point of the ludicrous, but the impulse to give anything and everything invested the most amazing donations with a dignity which forbade laughter.

But the end is not yet. On November 12th, last, the International Committee in London, having received reports from several special commissioners who had been sent to Belgium to make report on actual conditions at that time, issued a statement announcing that \$4,000,000 a month would be required for at least eight or nine months to feed the population. Canada, having done much, must do more and fortunately, she is doing more every day.

The action of the railways in declining longer to carry shipments free of freight charges makes it advisable that money be given wherever possible, so that purchases may be made near seaboard, but the following gifts in kind are especially acceptable at this time: Wheat, flour, canned goods, condensed milk, bacon, blankets, clothing and warm underwear. Whenever possible, would-be donors are advised to communicate through the nearest branch committee or the nearest Belgian Consul, but contributions will be accepted and acknowledged promptly by

HECTOR PRUD'HOMME,

Honorary Treasurer.

Belgian Relief Fund,

59 St. Peter Street,

Montreal, P.Q.

EXPLORATIONS IN YUKON.

Extensive coal and mineral areas in the southwestern corner of the Yukon Territories have been mapped out during the season's operations conducted by Dr. D. D. Cairnes of the Dominion Geological Survey branch of the department of mines.

Dr. Cairnes has been in charge of some important survey work during the past few years. In 1911 and 1912 he delimited the international boundary; last year he explored the White River country and this year he has been devoting his activities to a reconnaissance survey of the Lake Kluane and Lake Aishihiki countries and the territories around the headwaters of the Donjek and White Rivers, including the Nisling district.

The principal geological features have been noted with a view of further investigation work later. While until his report has been presented to his department he said that he could not discuss his discoveries specifically, Dr. Cairnes stated that he had surveyed some important coal deposits in the vicinity of Burwash Creek in the Kluane Lake country and had located several promising placer and copper areas.

MINING IN ALASKA IN 1914

The annual report on the mineral resources of Alaska and production in 1914 is now in preparation under the direction of Alfred H. Brooks, of the United States Geological Survey. Some of the important features of this report relative to mining development during the year are abstracted in the following statement:

Mining began in Alaska in 1880, and since that time the Territory has produced mineral wealth to the value of \$268,000,000. Of this \$224,300,000 has been in gold, \$19,800,000 in copper, \$2,251,000 in silver, \$370,000 in coal, and the rest in tin, lead, quicksilver, marble, gypsum, petroleum, etc. Copper mining began in Alaska in 1901, and the total production is about 133,000,000 pounds.

It is estimated that the value of the total mineral output of Alaska in 1914 is \$19,248,000, compared with \$19,416,000 for 1913. The preliminary figures on gold output for 1914 show a value of \$15,900,000; in 1913 the value was \$15,626,813. Silver to the value of about \$191,000 was produced in 1914, compared with \$218,988 in 1913. Though the low price of copper since mid-summer greatly curtailed the output of that metal, about 20,850,000 lb., valued at about \$2,872,000, was produced in 1914, against 21,659,958 lb., valued at \$3,357,293, in 1913. The output of the other minerals, including tin, marble, gypsum, quicksilver, coal and petroleum, in 1914 had a value of about \$285,000, compared with \$272,242 for 1913.

Had it not been for the depression in the copper market the value of Alaska's mineral product would have been considerably greater in 1914 than in 1913. The gold mining industry of the territory as a whole was prosperous during the year, as is made directly evident by the figures on output, but a more important item of progress is the extensive dead work accomplished on larger plants that have not yet reached a productive stage. No progress was made in coal mining, there being in 1914 only one small productive mine in the territory, and that in one of the lignite fields. It is expected that the new law, providing for leasing of coal land in Alaska, will lead to the exploitation of the fields containing high grade coal. The tin, gypsum, marble and petroleum mining industries of Alaska had a successful year.

The certainty of railway connection with the Yukon basin has greatly stimulated both prospecting and mining development. There was a noticeable increase in investigation of large mining enterprises in 1914 compared with previous years. This was due solely to the expectation of cheaper transportation.

Gold.

Placer mines.—The data in hand indicate that the value of the placer gold produced in 1914 was about \$10,700,000, or practically the same as that of 1913, which was \$10,680,000. The distribution of this output is, however, not the same in the two years. Some increases in the output of the Ruby, Seward Peninsula, Iditarod and Hot Springs districts were made, but, on the other hand, there was a marked decline in the placer gold output from Fairbanks and lesser decreases in some of the smaller camps. The abundant rainfall which occurred in most of the Yukon and Seward Peninsula camps during the mining season of 1914 greatly favored placer operations.

The Chisana district is the only new placer camp developed in 1914. Promising discoveries are reported in the Healy River region of the middle Tanana, and also