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The annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute will this year be held in Montreal on March 6th, 7th and 8th. Many important matters will be discussed and it is to be hoped that members will make every effort to be present. Canadians cannot afford to neglect such an opportunity to get together and talk things over. The mining men of the country have a duty to perform and they realize it more fully when they hear and take part in discussions on what is being done towards increasing production of minerals for war purposes and for maintaining Canada's credit now and after the war. If you attend this meeting and take an interest in the discussions you will doubtless make useful criticisms and suggestions. Don't be misled by the supposition that these meetings are unnecessary or undesirable in wartime, because they happen to be enjoyable functions. They are more useful now than they ever were, and you owe it to yourself and your country to attend.

During the past seven years Canada has had eight so-called Ministers of Mines. It is a pleasure therefore to record that there are signs that we now have a real one. We have, unfortunately, to be satisfied for the present with only half the attention of the new minister, for he also holds the portfolio of Secretary of State. Half the time of a capable minister will, however, be more than we have had for some years.

Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Mines and Secretary of State, has reason to be proud of his record as Minister of Agriculture. He has a good opportunity for showing again his ability as an organizer. His predecessors gave little attention to the business of the Mines Department and the Cabinet utterly failed in its duty to the mining industry. We expect that the new Cabinet and particularly the new Minister of Mines will make some effort to inform themselves as to the best means for speeding up the development of our mineral resources. Mr. Burrell will not have to do very much to surpass the efforts of those who preceded him. We do not believe that he will be content to be classed with them. He is not unfamiliar with the mining industry and as head of the Department of Agriculture he made a reputation that leads us to hope for much.

The fuel shortage has naturally directed much attention to fuels other than coal. Plans are being made to utilize peat, and an unusually large amount of wood is being burned. It would be well, however, for the public to realize that North America has plenty of good coal for immediate needs and that the real problem is one of transportation. There is, of course, a shortage of labor, but the great cause of shortage at points of consumption is inability of the railway companies to take the coal quickly from the mines to the consumers. We should cut out the long hauls where they are not necessary. Canadian coal in east and west should be more fully utilized in both Canada and the United States. Americans who think that central Canada gets too much coal from the United States, will do well to consider who is responsible for the failure to more largely use Canadian coal in northern Atlantic and Pacific States. In Nova Scotia we have great coal mines right on the sea, admirably situated to supply Boston and nearby ports. We have similar conditions on the Pacific coast. In Ontario we have no coal; but are close to great United States coal fields. By more complete utilization of our Niagara and St. Lawrence water powers Ontario should be able to get along without much coal for power purposes; but will be glad to have American coal for heating purposes.

We would suggest that the Fuel Controllers of the United States and Canada could help relieve the coal shortage by doing what they can towards increasing reciprocity in the use of coal and, if necessary, in the supply of labor and transportation facilities. They will do well to enquire into the conditions which have prevented the proper utilization of Canadian coal in Manitoba and North Western States. They will do well to consider whether Nova Scotia coal could not be more extensively used in New England and on the Atlantic.