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FOOD PRODUCTION.

Managers of mining properties have it in their power to materially assist in increasing production of food. Many mine employees like to work in gardens. Why not encourage them as much as possible this year?

Given ground to cultivate and a little assistance with the heavier work, the employees of mining companies could spend their spare hours to great advantage. Many of these men have neither the land nor the implements necessary for preparing the land. An effort should be made to provide plots and to do the plowing.

The average miner yearns to do a little gardening. He needs some encouragement at the start. Once the land is prepared and seeded the miner can take care of it in his spare hours.

Every mining camp should this year produce food as well as minerals. The gardens will give pleasure and profit to the workers and will help the world to avert famine.

Our contemporary "Mining and Scientific Press" commenting on the fact that Canadian mining companies are being supplied with cyanide at 15 cents per pound by a British firm, while Americans are paying ridiculous prices—from 30 cents to \$1.30 per pound—says: "If cyanide can be supplied from Glasgow to Ontario at 15 cents why can it not be supplied from New Jersey to Nevada and California at something like the same cost?"

Perhaps if our contemporary would enquire of some of the leading users of cyanide in the United States it would learn that the reason is obvious. The firm on which our American friends depend for their supply is a German firm, which has naturally made no great efforts to meet the demands, though it has made a great pretence of doing so.

THE COAL SHORTAGE.

It probably is not realized that as food shortage is today on every lip, so before long will coal shortage be the common topic of conversation. The reason for coal shortage is not far to seek. The consumption of coal is unprecedented, it has no previous parallel. Coal is the basic munition of this war, and is being used up at a tremendous rate in every country where it can be got at. Accompanying this unparalleled rate of consumption is a diminished production. Nowhere is any large increase in the rate of coal production possible today. During the past three years coal has been produced in smaller quantity than the normal pre-war tonnages. Great Britain has made extraordinary efforts to maintain her coal supply, and considering the enormous enlistment of miners has done excellently