

GERMANY AND THE METAL TRADES.

Opinion differs as to how far Germany will be able to stem and surmount the prejudices of the world when the war is over. Will she be shorn of many of her commercial and economic advantages or will she be able to recoup some of her present losses by trade aggression? Her grip upon the dye industry, her prominence in the realm of shipping and her dominance of the metal trades are among the strongest of her bulwarks threatened.

Complete readjustment of relations existing between German metal houses on one hand and mining and smelting corporations, largely British owned and controlled, on the other, looms forth as one of the results of the European war. The heretofore powerful influence of the Frankfort and Hamburg concerns may thereby be eliminated. Tangible steps along this line have already been taken by the British government and courts and the effect will ultimately be felt in the United States where these German houses have affiliations and through which copper in former years and zinc concentrates at the present time come to the United States.

Through its "trading with the enemy" bill Great Britain has been working out a plan whereby some of the largest London metal firms, which before the war were closely allied with German firms, could be placed under government supervision. The Court of Appeals in London has just rendered an important decision making possible the abrogation of contracts between English owned mines and German metal houses even after the end of the war.

Another step in this direction comes in the request of the British government for metal concerns in London to file specific data as to ownership, identity of clients and other pertinent business secrets. A year or more ago there was an investigation of some of the metal houses, notably Henry R. Merton & Co., one of the largest in the world. A list of stockholders indicated that a very large part of its shares, if not control itself, was held in Germany. The company had 25,000 outstanding preferred shares and ordinary 70,000 shares. The largest blocks were held by Germans, as shown below:

	Ordinary
Metalbank-Metallurgischegesellschaft.....	18,600
Metalgesellschaft.....	11,875
Schweizerischegesellschaft fur Metalwerke.....	11,875
Merton Metallurgical Co.....	1,240

An appeal taken by Aron Hirsch & Sohn of Halberstadt, Germany from a lower court decision which nullified its contract with the Zinc Corporation resulted in an affirmation by the Court of Appeals in London of the lower court decision. Thus the Hirsch firm has lost the contract, which would not otherwise have expired until 1919, for concentrates produced by the Zinc Corporation, one of the largest Australian zinc properties. This contract called for a minimum of 85,000 tons and a maximum of 95,000 tons per annum.

The United Metals Selling Co., Phelps, Dodge & Co., and the American Smelting & Refining Co. have long maintained branches or agents abroad including offices in London. Control of these companies has always been held in the United States, there being absolutely none other than American ownership and management.—Boston News Bureau.

DOMES EXTENSION

Timmins, Jan. 22—Capt. Anchor has returned to Porcupine and is now superintending the work preliminary to the re-opening of Dome Extension, and it is to be expected that new developments will be reported from the property itself within the course of the next fortnight.

Some of the most recent developments on the Big Dome point strongly to the probability that the big ore bodies of the Dome will be encountered on the Dome Extension.

CANADIAN SHELL MAKING

Gen. A. Bertram, president of the former shell committee of Canada, says in the Monetary Times: "The first order for shells from the English authorities was for 100,000 18-pounder empty shrapnel shells. It was a new venture for any Canadian manufacturing establishment and while the price of \$8.55 per shell may appear high in light of to-day's experience, yet at about the same time an order for 1,000,000 18-pounder shrapnel shells was placed in the United States at \$10 per shell. To the credit of Canadian manufacturers, they have completed 3,000,000 shells at average cost of \$6.50 and the United States concerns have not yet completed their order and are asking extension of time.

"Total number of shells placed has been approximately 22,000,000; materials and quantities used: Steel, 800,000-000 pounds; brass, including copper and zinc, 44,865,617 pounds; copper, 21,595,832 pounds; lead, 101,758,327 pounds; tin, 1,447,708 pounds; resin, 10,037,506 pounds; powder, 4,094,531 pounds; cordite, 9,649,990 pounds; nitrocellulose powder, 3,750,000 pounds; trinitrotoluene, 10,690,000 pounds.

"Monthly output of shells, 1,100,000; labor employed, approximately 80,000 to 90,000 men, including skilled and unskilled labor. There are also 1500 inspectors.

"As the business developed in Canada, as experience was gained, we were enabled to greatly reduce cost production, so much so that on our present contracts we expect to save the imperial exchequer probably \$30,000,000 as between price of the original orders and prices now being paid manufacturers.

"One measure of satisfaction we shall always have—namely, one of the largest industries in America to-day, which will mean a productive output to the end of August of over \$350,000,000.

THE MURDER OF AMERICAN MINING MEN.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, Jan. 21, 1916, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED That this Board has learned with indignation and sorrow of the unprovoked and brutal murder of eighteen American citizens on January 10th, in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and laments especially the death of Messrs. C. R. Watson, C. A. Pringle, H. C. Hase and W. J. Wallace, who were members of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. As these men and their companions were engaged in the lawful prosecution of their work, we trust that nothing will be allowed to prevent or delay appropriate action by our Government concerning the outrage by which they lost their lives.

RESOLVED that the sincere sympathy of this Board and of all the members of the Institute is extended to the families and friends of Messrs. C. R. Watson, C. A. Pringle H. C. Hase and W. J. Wallace.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of State of the United States, be published in the Institute Bulletin, in the press, and be sent to the families of the deceased members.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

A meeting of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Mining Institute was held at the Engineers club, Saturday, Jan. 15. There was a lively discussion of the nickel question, many members taking part. The speakers expressed hopes that nickel refining in Canada will soon become a fact.