it ought to be possible to recover some part of that shortage.

They would remember that Lord Kitchener had asked the industry to shorten the Easter holidays. What happened? Eight hundred thousand more tons of coal were raised. It might be truly said that the pits were only open a certain number of days, and the men might work only a certain number of hours, and that it was difficult to see, under such conditions, how a greater output could be secured. But they were met together to consider within what limits those conditions might be usefully modified for the period of the war, and he asked the owners to open their pits, and the miners to work on every day they possibly could. They would not suppose that the country did not understand that those who spent the working hours delving in the bowels of the earth in darkness and danger, expected to pause in their labors from time to time. But at such a time as the present there were no holidays for anybody, and he was sure the coal mining industry would see how they could help the Government in that regard.

The Eight Hours Act, though passed in times of peace, and in response to an overwhelming demand, contained a section which provided that in the event of war or imminent national danger or great emergency, the operation of the Act might be suspended by order-in-Council to such extent and for such period as might be named in the order. The Government, however, were not going to play tricks with that Act of Parliament without consulting them. He hoped that masters and men in every area likely to be affected would consult together to see what suggestions they felt able to make to the Government—whether a temporary modification of this or that regulation—to increase the output of coal to the maximum quantity possible. In the course of long years of effort the miners had established rules, customs and practices designed to protect their labor. Nothing that he or anyone said was intended to belittle the importance of those rules, or to indicate that they could be abandoned or watered down. But there were adjustments and modifications which might be made in them during the period of the war. In return he pledged the honor of the Cabinet, the Government, Parliament and the country that any relaxation in those rules and practices which, for national purposes, the miners made now, should be restored to them without alteration or modification, the moment the danger was past.

The Government relied upon the coal owners similarly to modify their established rules and practices, and to do everything they could in co-operation with the men to see that suggestions calculated to increase the output and to assist the nation during the crisis, should be favorably received, carefully weighed, and generously accepted in every possible case. In that way, they were confident that great additions could be made to the output of coal in the coming months. One class of regulations, however, would never be modified; those designed to secure safety in the mines. Nothing they were asking to be done ought in any way to modify or water down regulations made for the common good, not merely to protect the miners who might be injured, but the lives and limbs of all his fellows in the mine.

"Our country stands at this time in an emergency, and is faced by a danger which it is impossible to overstate. If there is one feature of the coal mining industry which strikes the imagination of every man who studies it, it is the instant response which everyone connected with that industry habitually gives if some great and overwhelming disaster overtakes the mine. When the news spreads of some terrible explosion, who is there, miner or mine manager, who holds back when the call goes out for a rescue party? Is the appeal ever made in vain in any mining district in the land? Gentlemen, nearly a year ago the greatest explosion that ever took place in the history of the world occurred in Europe. It was not the result of the secret workings of nature; it was not even due to the folly or the carelessness of some man. It was deliberately perpetrated. It was long planned. The German Emperor set fire a year ago to the mine, and we are calling for a rescue party. That explosion convulsed a continent. It has devastated thousands of square miles of fruitful territory. It has desolated tens of thousands of homes. And now we appeal to the mining industry of Great Britain to come and help in this work of rescue. For we are determined that this devastating fire shall be quenched, that peace and order shall be restored, that the dangers that threaten the freedom and the life of all who care for a free life, shall be removed, and that this terrible calamity, shaking as it does to their foundations the seats of the mighty and the humblest of homes, shall never, by dint of our efforts, and by the help of Heaven, be allowed to recur to curse the earth. That is the appeal we make for our mining rescue party, and we are very sure that the appeal will not be made in vain."—Colliery Guardian.

CROWN RESERVE.

Montreal, Aug. 23.

Directors of the Crown Reserve Mining Company, Ltd., at a meeting held here to-day, decided, for the time being, to discontinue dividends. This course of action is stated by the directors to be due to the disappointing results in draining Kerr lake and also to the demoralized condition of the silver market. The following circular will be mailed to shareholders today:

"Your directors take this occasion to advise you that the drainage of Kerr lake and the removal of the mud and clay since the first of January, 1916, has not uncovered up to the present any large deposits of ore in the bed of the lake. Promising veins of ore of good value have been discovered on the Kerr Lake property, immediately adjoining the Crown Reserve line, and we trust that ultimately some discoveries will be made on the property.

"The operation of the mine during the last six months has been almost entirely in low grade ore, and the cost of milling and marketing the same has left only a very small margin of profit.

"The fall in the price of silver has also considerably reduced the profit from the sale of the ore produced, and your directors feel that unless the market for silver, which has never been at such a low point, has recovered, they will be acting in the best interests of the shareholders at large by retaining the ore and bullion, discontinuing the dividends, and conserving all the revenue of the company, which includes the dividends received from the Porcupine Crown Mines, Ltd., and acquire other properties when a suitable opportunity occurs."