

\$40,000,000 OF TIMBER FOR BRITAIN

The 1,000,000 square feet of timber which the British timber controller will buy in Canada, is to be of all grades, and will be bought through British brokerage houses and Canadian timber agents in London, who will deal direct with the Canadian lumber producers.

It is understood that every Canadian producer who is registered on the lists of the trade board at Ottawa will be given an equal opportunity to sell. There is also to be an allocation of purchases upon a territorial basis thus ensuring a fair proportion of purchases to Western Canada. All the British Columbia lumbermen are represented in London by L. C. Beale, timber commissioner for the province, who is attached to the staff of F. C. Wade, K.C., agent-general for the province in Great Britain, and he will deal directly with the timber controller. This lumber is to be bought within the next 12 months. It will represent a total transaction in money value of about \$40,000,000.

CANADA'S MINERAL OUTPUT FOR 1918

The Department of Mines estimates the production of coal during 1918 at about 15,180,000 short tons, as compared with a production of 14,046,759 short tons during 1917.

The production of the more important metals during 1918 is estimated as follows: Gold, \$14,750,000 in value; silver, 20,800,000 ounces; copper, 117,000,000 pounds; nickel, 91,500,000 pounds; zinc, 36,000,000 pounds; pig-iron, 1,182,000 short tons; steel ingots and castings, 1,010,000 short tons.

The production of these metals in 1917 was: Gold, \$15,272,992 in value; silver, 22,221,276 ounces; copper, 109,227,332 pounds; nickel, 82,330,280 pounds; zinc, 29,668,764 pounds; lead, 32,576,281 pounds; pig-iron, 1,170,480 short tons; steel ingots and castings, 1,745,734 short tons.

The total value of the mineral production in Canada during 1918 was probably not less than \$220,000,000. The total value of the production in 1917 was \$189,646,821.

UKRAINIANS AND AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

Ukrainian delegates from all parts of Canada gathered at their third educational convention in Saskatoon on December 26th. Prominent leaders of the race addressed the meeting and Prof. W. W. Swanson, of the University of Saskatchewan, spoke on "Economic and Social Conditions of Agriculture after the War." He emphasized very strongly the importance of raising the material standards of living, to make cultural and social progress possible. He spoke at some length of the standard of living being very low in the countries from which Ukrainians had emigrated, and compared it with the much higher standard in Canada.

Professor Swanson declared that the farmers are not profiteers. The high prices paid for wheat and other farm products during the past few years had been offset in large part by the rise in general prices. Because farmers had been selling their products too cheaply in the past, there were many ready to cry "profiteers," while, as a matter of fact, there were many farmers who, by reason of poor yields, hail, frost, etc., are no better off now than they were before the era of higher prices. Prices are bound to fall and farmers must see to it that in the readjustment period which will follow, what they produce will give them the necessities, some of the comforts, and even a few of the luxuries of life, otherwise the standard of cultural advancement cannot be continued.

The electors of Niagara Falls have decided to purchase the street railway. A by-law to spend \$38,000 to buy the Lundy property of 24 acres, for park purposes, was defeated. The railway franchise expires in March, 1920.

WANT MONTREAL TO TAKE OVER RAILWAY

Municipalization of the incline railway service up the mountainside, Park avenue, Montreal, was something which the Trades and Labor Council at its meeting instructed its executive to urge upon the city of Montreal authorities. President J. T. Foster informed the Council that the Mount Royal Incline Company, which had operated this service, one of Montreal's sightseeing specialties, had gone into liquidation. The Trades Council had always been in favor of having this service owned and operated by the municipality, pointed out Mr. Foster, and now seemed a very opportune time to have the city take the necessary steps.

CANADA'S PENSION SCALE LIBERAL

A meeting of the Open Forum of Toronto, held on the afternoon of January 5th, was addressed by Major Hume Cronyn, M.P. Mr. Cronyn is not a member of the Pensions Board, but was a member of the parliamentary commission on pensions.

The speaker said that he had discovered that there was an appalling ignorance on the question of pensions, and he welcomed the open discussion of the subject, as it was an integral part of the problem of reconstruction. The task that confronted the country to-day was the task of repairing the rent in the social fabric caused by the war. That task called for the skilful sympathy and co-operation of every man and woman in the country, especially the women.

Major Cronyn, reviewing the brief history of pensions in Canada, said that there were no pensioners in Canada until the present war. Pensions had been governed under the War Measures Act by orders in council, and the law had been changed from time to time since the war began. Pensions had been increased three times in the last four years, and he believed that parliament would pass a law at its next session that would place pensions on a broad and sound foundation. Such a law should be the will of the people crystalized in legal form.

Dealing with the complaints of returned soldiers regarding pensions, Major Cronyn said these were based upon the weakness of the present law and were not the fault of the pensions board. A good deal would depend upon the attitude of the Canadian people to the returned soldier who comes home disabled. The totally disabled man must be cared for to the end of his days, but the partially disabled man could not be dealt with merely by giving him a pension. He would be a better and happier man if he learned to be independent.

As to the question whether the present pensions were sufficient, Major Cronyn said that pensions in Canada were higher than in any other country. The problem was a complicated one. A laboring man suffered greater disability through the loss of limbs than a man who was engaged in clerical employment before enlistment, but it often happened that by training, a laborer would earn a larger income than he had done before enlisting.

Touching upon the question of the equality of pensions, the speaker said the commission had not been able to come to any decision on that matter. The difficulty in putting officers and men on the same basis was in the fact that officers went overseas under the belief that they would get a pension proportionate to their position in case of being disabled, and the question was whether the government was going to keep faith with these men.

One practical suggestion made by Major Cronyn was for the establishment of a committee at every centre where there were returned soldiers. This committee would keep in close touch with pensioners and adjust their complaints.

The Standard Bank of Canada has opened a branch at Raymond, Alta., and at Gray, Sask.