

correctly used. Persistence of ore in depth does not depend on any theory of origin; but it does not follow that a theory of origin based on observed facts may not be of use in predicting the extent of ore deposits.

## THOSE AMAZING WELSH MINERS

"In trenches, shops, grain fields, executive offices, hospitals; on railroad trains and tracks; on bridges; guarding communications, scouting aloft—every man of France is doing every pound that is in him to do for his country where she needs him most. In the tiny corner of free Belgium left, the remnant of the devoted army that a year ago helped save the democracy of Europe fights doggedly for the country's redemption. The Russian bear, limping in retreat, turns to claw his pursuer, but desperately needs aid. In France, on Gallipoli, in half a dozen other places, Britons and their colonial kin are dying in as plucky a fight as men ever made.

"And this precise occasion 25,000 coal miners of Wales select to strike for a second time, instead of working while negotiating; possibly, if they gain recruits, to tie up communications; possibly to doom thousands of fellow-workmen in the ranks to death for lack of food, or ammunition, or reinforcements that coal alone can bring!

"It is a situation past comprehension, even though Lloyd George's arrangement may have been interfered with by others. The miners know that if that is true the Minister of Munitions and the Government and country behind him can be depended on to see that it is carried out. It is impossible to explain except upon the theory that the miners have not imagination enough to picture, even yet, the war as it affects their country! Can it be that after thirteen months of the most gigantic conflict in history there are still men in Great Britain who have not waked up to the truth? Are there 25,000 in a single trade who do not see what defeat might mean for their fellow-workmen and for themselves?"

The foregoing extract is clipped from the editorial columns of the New York "World" of the 28th August, and gives a new point to the old saying: "They do these things better in France." In Canada we also are amazed, and find it "a situation past comprehension," but our amazement is mixed with deep humiliation that two serious strikes should have been possible in a coal district of Great Britain, upon which, more than upon any other coal field, rests the burden of supplying the navy with coal. A certain extreme section of the miners are credited with a desire to have the coal mines nationalized, and their actions are partly explained by wishfulness to force the Government to take over the coal mines at once, as though the Government of Great Britain had not sufficient problems to solve at the present time without tackling the thousand and one difficulties that will arise in nationalizing so enormous a vested interest as the coal industry of the United Kingdom! The British syndicalists

do not appear to realize that the very doctrine of syndicalism was born in the fertile brain of Germany's arch-spy Stieber, the man who sowed France with "fixed agents", "agents provocateurs" and every grade of spy before the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. The outbreak of "sabotage" and syndicalistic strikes in France at the time of the Agadir crisis was not a coincidence. The simultaneous occurrence of labor troubles in France and the United Kingdom with the periodic sabre-rattlings of Germany during the armed and irksome peace that preceded the present war was too obvious to be explained as due merely to coincidence.

There are faults on both sides in the South Wales labor troubles. Neither the masters nor the men in the South Wales coal fields have in the past been remarkable for keeping faith with each other, and the present absolute distrust between masters and men, combined with the revolt of the men against their union leaders, has its explanation in past acts of bad faith on both sides. Be this as it may, the action of the South Wales miners remains an indelible stain on the otherwise admirable and heroic record of the British miner in the present struggle. Their action is deeply resented by miners in other portions of the Empire. It is an action that will defile the memory of South Wales long after the war is over, and no men will feel the humiliation and odium that these strikes bring to those who have participated in them, more than the gallant Welsh miners who are bravely bearing the leek in the far-scattered fields where Britons are at death-grips with an, as yet, unbeaten foe.

The demand for munitions of war is making itself felt in many ways in the mining industry. Most metals are greatly in demand and the prices good. Big premiums over these prices are also obtainable for especially pure materials. It is not surprising therefore that many new metallurgical works are being established. As a result of the peculiar conditions, Canada is soon to have in operation three zinc refineries, using electrolytic methods. The treatment of zinc ores by leaching and electrolytic precipitation from sulphate solutions gives a product now much in demand. The process could not have been adopted before the war with any such promise of success. If reasonably good results are obtained the electrolytic process may prove the salvation of many Canadian zinc properties.

Porcupine continues to make new records. Holinger and Dome mines, the largest producers, each milled over 28,000 tons in August. The joint output of the two gold mines is now about \$13,000 per day. Acme, McIntyre, Porcupine Crown and Vipond mines, while not such large producers, are also making good profits.

Remember the Disablement Fund for disabled soldiers. Mr. E. H. Scammell, 22 Victoria Street, Ottawa, is secretary.