

## Problems Relating to the Mineral Industry of Canada

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THE war has focussed world-wide attention on the manifold implications of the German system of economic penetration and of commercial and financial control of vitally important industries. The surprising fact is, not so much that Germany has controlled aniline dye, potash salt and other chemical industries, but that her industrial organization and development has enabled her, without imports or exports, to produce all those materials essential for the successful conduct of war. Just as truly, as the war has demonstrated the skill, foresight and preparedness of the Germans in regard to war, shall we be at great disadvantage with respect to German competition in trade unless we learn our lesson from the war.

That the Allies are cognizant of the situation is evident from the economic discussions of the Paris conference, at which Canada was represented by Sir Geo. E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has already done much toward organizing our industries. The conference suggested the following means of encouraging trade:

(a) Abolition of "favoured nation" treatment of the enemy.

(b) Permanent measures of mutual assistance and collaboration among the Allies. It was suggested that, for such permanent measures, the allied nations have recourse to enterprises subsidised, directed or controlled by the governments themselves, to the granting of financial assistance for the encouragement of science and technical research and for the development of national industries and resources, also to customs duties or prohibitions of a temporary or permanent character, or to a combination of any or all of these different methods.

The war has clearly demonstrated that:

(1) Defense is not obtained to-day by fighting men alone but by fighting industries. Behind every man in the firing line in Europe from 3 to 5 persons are employed to supply him with food, ammunition and other needs. To-day from two-thirds to three-quarters of all the industries of the warring nations are engaged in meeting the tremendous requirements of the battle-line.