

processes will have to be devised for treating the ores. For example, I might cite the case of zinc and phosphorus. We have in British Columbia large deposits of zinc ores and of phosphate bearing minerals. It is true, we do not know as yet how to treat them economically, but methods can and will be devised if we set our hearts on it. There is no reason why we should be dependent on other countries such as Germany for our supply of such vital commodities. Norway and Sweden have shown us what can be done by the application of electricity to the solution of such problems and with our extensive waterfalls we have at hand the means of producing electricity at the lowest possible cost. Efforts should be made to conserve it for our own use and research should be directed particularly to the development of its applications in the treatment of ores.

While dealing with the question of metals and minerals it might not be out of place to refer here to a movement which has been recently inaugurated by The Iron and Steel Institute, The Institute of Metals, The Institution of Mining Engineers, and The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy of Great Britain for the formation of a central Department of Mines and Metals in Great Britain to protect and advance the economic interests of British mining and metallurgical industries and to stimulate the development of the mineral resources of the Empire. As is well known there are well organised Departments of Mines in Canada and in some of the other Dominions but up to the present time there has been no Department of Mines in the centre of the Empire. In the plans which are being formulated it is proposed that the duties of the projected Department of Mines and Metals when established should include:

1. The making of arrangements for expediting the completion of mineral surveys of the United Kingdom and of the Crown Colonies and other British Possessions.
2. The systematic collection and co-ordination of information bearing on the occurrence, uses and economic value of minerals. Some of this information should be promptly and widely disseminated in summarised form to those interested in the industries, through the medium of the existing publications of the Institutions directly concerned.
3. The co-ordination and dissemination of information on mining laws, development of mineral areas, output, processes of extraction, plant, capital employed, markets, etc., etc.
4. The stocktaking in a general sense of the mineral resources of the Empire and the review from time to time of the position of each mineral or metal to ensure that the mineral wealth of the Empire is being developed and exploited with due regard to imperial interests.