

of the British Government, who ought to know, are yet not in a position to tell whether there is petroleum in the British Isles or not; and so the government is holding out big inducements for the discovery and the exploitation of that mineral. Following, possibly, the example of Britain and the United States, a Mineral Resources Commission, it seems, has been appointed in Canada. This has given grievous offence to the Canadian Mining Journal. The editorial writer of that paper lashes himself into fury at the bare idea that such a commission could for a moment be thought necessary. The censor and criticism of the Commission occupies four columns. Let us be content with a paragraph or two as sufficiently showing the mood of our esteemed contemporary:—

"Many of our readers have received during the past few weeks an undated circular letter from the Mineral Resources Commission.

"If the Munitions Resources Commission really wants the information it asks for why does it not apply to the Department of Mines at Ottawa? Very complete information is on file there and is readily accessible, although some poorly informed gentlemen, occupying positions which give their words some weight with those who do not know of their unreliability, frequently make statements to the contrary. The Department of Mines has collected information concerning all known important deposits and it is crass stupidity for the Munitions Resources Commission to begin now to duplicate the work already done by better qualified men. If further information is wanted than can be obtained from the Department of Mines and the Bureaux of Mines of the Provinces, these organizations can secure it much more readily than can the Munitions Resources Commission. They will moreover be able to interpret the information obtained; while the Munitions Resources Commission gives no indication in its circular of being able to intelligently compile and condense such information.

"The circular sent out by the Munitions Resources Commission is not only evidence of that Commission's inability to deal with the matter, but the action of the Commission is insulting to the Departments of Mines of the Dominion and the Provinces. It is to be hoped that the heads of these capable organizations will not allow the insult to pass unnoticed."

We can scarcely think that so simple a thing, and so common, as the appointment of a commission, was sufficient of itself to provoke the Canadian Mining Journal to so great indignation and wrath. We can assure the Journal that there is a great work for a well ordered Mineral Resources Commission to do in giving information in greater detail, as to the minerals of the Dominion, more particularly that portion of it called Nova Scotia. Possibly the other provinces have Departments of Mines that can give all needed information as to the various minerals, the places in which they may be found, their extent, and quality, if under lease, and if being wrought, or if not being exploited, why. The Journal as an authority ought to know that the Department of Mines of Nova Scotia has never undertaken to furnish inquirers with the information necessary to induce them to look over the lands reported to be underlain with specified minerals. Suppose one goes into the

Mines Office in Halifax and asks the question, "Are there coal lands in any of the counties not yet covered by lease?" What could the officials say if one goes in and asks "Is there a workable iron ore area under lease that I could get hold of?" Still the Department could not tell. Yet another enters and asks, "Is there copper of commercial value in Nova Scotia." The only answer that he would likely receive would be "We hope so". If he further put the question "Why is the Coxheath copper not being worked?" The answer might be, "Oh, give us something easy." What our Department of Mines does not know about the minerals of the Province would take up five columns of the Canadian Mining Journal. In saying this no reflection is cast on the Nova Scotia Department of Mines. Unlike Ontario, and some other of the provinces possibly, Nova Scotia has no geological survey. The Department of Mines has never done any "field" work and the information it has obtained as to mineral deposits has been obtained from the Canadian Geological Survey or from interested individuals. Prof. Howe and others did something in that direction, but that was long ago. Several geologists have made reports, but these were at the instance of private corporation. Only within the last few months has the Canadian Geological Survey reached the conclusion that Fairburn, Dawson and others were mistaken as to Nova Scotia's iron ores. A great deal more light is needed, come from where it may.

ECONOMY IMPERATIVE.

Of late warning have been thrown out that people must begin to economize now, and not wait until they are compelled to do so, by and by, when shortage, if not famine, stares them in the face. Here are a couple of extracts from authoritative sources:—

"Lecturing on this subject at the London School of Economics, Mr. Sidney Webb said that already we were face to face with the great world shortage which peace would bring home to us. Wheat, the greatest factor in the world's food supply, was already at its lowest figure. Flocks and herds were growing smaller; the pig was rapidly disappearing; the consumption of metals, oil, coal, wool, hides, leather and timber was in excess of production—owing to lack of labour. At present about 45,000,000 workers—one-eighth of the world's population—were munition-making. After the war there would be an abnormal demand for many things which it would be impossible to supply. We ought at once to be engaged on the task of re-victualing Europe if we were to avoid general and local famine. It seemed to him the principle they would have to adopt would be "No cake until everyone has bread." Sir Arthur Yapp, Director of Food Economy, speaking in Huddersfield the same night, said we had to realise the world shortage of food to-day, and the world shortage of tonnage. There was likely to be a world shortage of money and there would be a world shortage of men. There was no need for panic, but there was the most urgent need for economy in all foods. He appealed to everybody to deny