

tungsten, molybdenum, and platinum were largely under the control of alien enemies. Vast stocks of these metals had been accumulated in alien countries and the treatment of the ores of these metals had practically slipped into their hands from our own.

As an illustration of what I have referred to I may cite the case of tungsten. This metal as you may know is largely used for metallic filaments of electric lamps and for hardening steel cutting tools. As an example of what was going on previous to the war, I may say that the whole of the output of Burma went to Germany, and the world was dependent on her for a great part of its supply of this metal as well as of the alloy ferro-tungsten. Moreover the monazite sands of Travancore were controlled by her and she also regulated the price and the output of this mineral and the production from it of thorium nitrate, thereby controlling also the gas mantle industry. In regard to tungsten, drastic and immediate action was necessary in order to meet our requirements in carrying on the war but for some extraordinary reason since 1914 there has been a steady drop in the production of tungsten from Burma. In January, 1915, the exports from that country were 232 tons, while in January, 1916, the output diminished to 217 tons. Even when the control was in our own hands the influence of the enemy was still felt. A number of coolies were sent to Tavoy to meet the requirements but still tungsten was not produced in anything like the quantities expected. The Government of Great Britain has now, however, sent mining engineers to supervise production and no doubt the situation will be altered. I mention these things to show you into what a pitiable state we had fallen through our neglect of matters of vital importance in connection with the mineral industries of the Empire. Attention should be drawn here to one particular industry which has been developed in Canada through the prosecution of the war. For some years Professor T. L. Walker and others co-operating with the Geological Survey of Canada have made a special study of the deposits of molybdenum ores in Canada and as a result of this work the Geological Survey was enabled to point out to the metal industries of Great Britain that we had in our midst considerable deposits of molybdenum, and that this metal could be used largely in place of tungsten in the hardening of steels. But the information fell on deaf ears until the outbreak of hostilities when, with the supplies of tungsten largely diminished, a demand arose at once for the molybdenum. I am glad to tell you that the production of this metal has now become a very important and profitable industry in our country.

We have been taught the lesson and at a terrible cost that we must preserve our metals, first of all for our own use. We have vast resources in minerals in Canada, but they will require special treatment. New